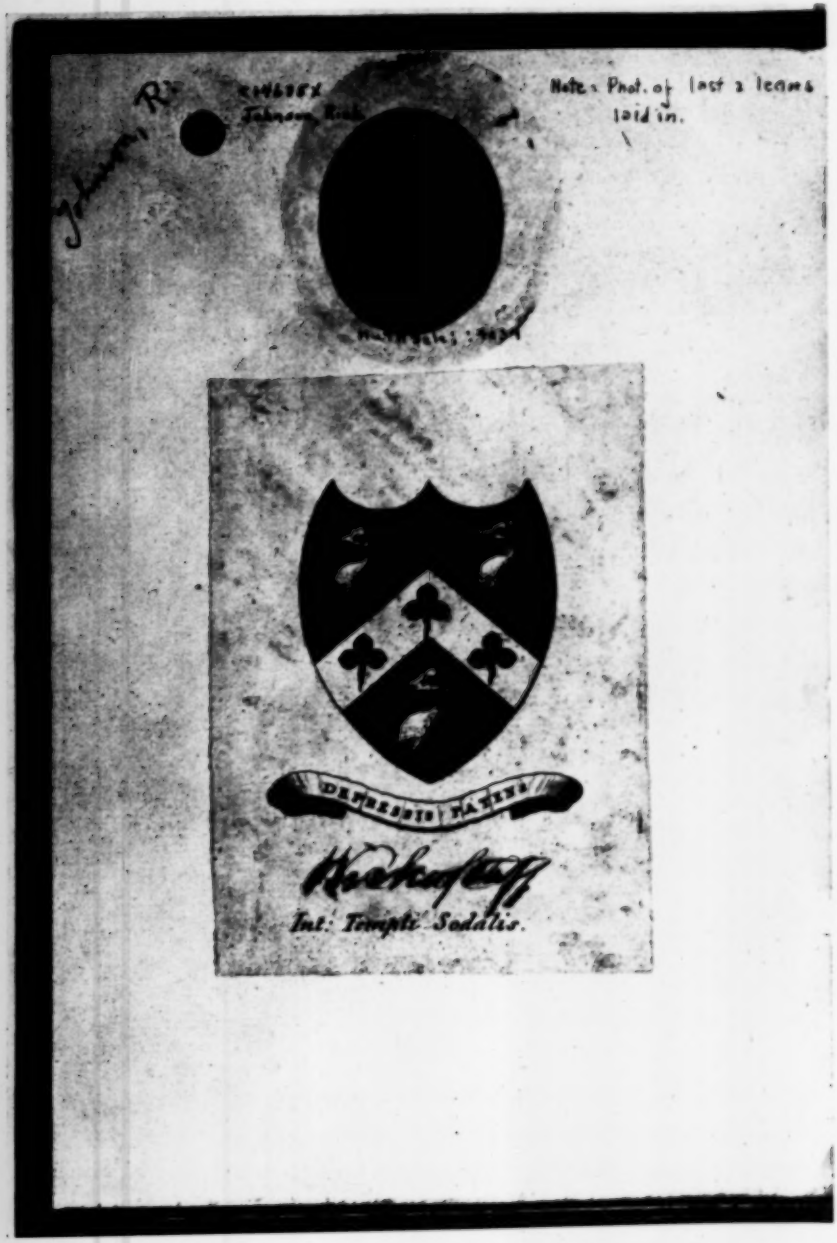
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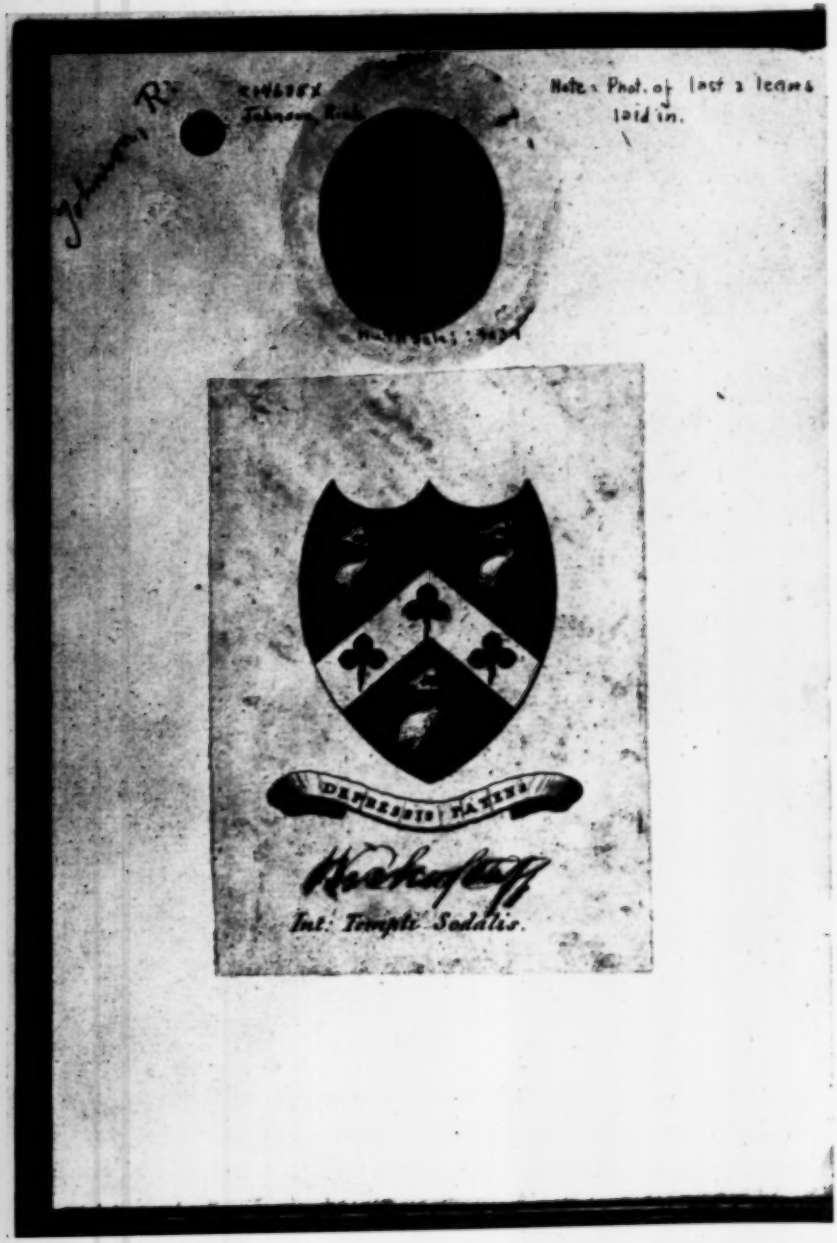
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DEPRESSO PATENS
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Philip. Bliss.

The most Pleasant History of TOM A LINCOLNE, that renowned Soldier, the RED-ROSE KNIGHT, who for his Valour and Chivalry, was stiled *The Boast of England.*

Shewing his Honourable Victories in Forraine Countries, with his strange Fortunes in the *Fayrie Land*: and how hee married the faire *Anglitora*, Daughter to *Prester John*, that renowned Monarke of the World.

Together with the Liues and Deaths of his two famous Sons, the *Blacke Knight*, and the *Fayrie Knight*, with diuers other memorable accidents, full of delight.

The Seventh Impression.

LONDON,
Printed by *A. M.* and are to be sold by *Francis Faulkner*, and *Francis Coules*. 1635.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFVLL, SIMON WORTEDGE of *Okenberrie* in the County of *Huntington*, Esquire: health, happineſſe and proſperity.

THe generall report and conſideration (right Worſhipfull) of your exceeding curteſie, and the great friendſhip which my parents have heretofore found at the hands of your renowned Father do imbolden me to preſent vnto your Worſhip theſe my vnpoliſht Labours; which if you ſhall vouchſafe to caſt a fauourable glance vpon, and therein find any part or parcell pleaſing to your vertuous mind, I ſhall eſteeme my trauell moſt highly honoured. The Hiſtory (I preſent) you ſhall find delightfull, the matter not offenſiue to any: only my skil in penning it very ſimple, and my preſumption great, in preſenting ſo rude a piece of worke to ſo wiſe a Patron; which I hope your Worſhip will the more beare with, and account the rather to be pardonable, in that the fault proceedeth from a good meaning.

Your Worſhips deuoted, and

poore Country-man,

R. I.

The Pleasant Historie of TOM A LINCOLNE,

the RED-ROSE Knight: for his valour and Chivalrie, surnamed *the Beast of England.*

CHAPTER. I.

How King Arthur *loued faire* Angellica *the Earle of* Londons *Daughter: and likewise of the birth of* Tom a Lincolne.

WHEN as King ARTHVR wore the Emperiall Diadem of England, and by his Chivalrie had purchased many famous Victories, to the great renowme of this mayden Land, hee ordained the order of the Round Table, and selected many worthy Knights to attend his Majestie: of whose glittering renowme many ancient Histories doe record, and witnesse to all insuing ages.

This worthy Prince upon a time intending to visit the city of London, with some few number of his Knights came and feasted with Andregius being at that time Earle of London; whose house (at then) was not onely replenished with most delicate fare, but grac't with a number of beautifull Ladyes: who gaue such a pleasing entertainement to King Arthur and his Knights, that they were ravished with pleasure, and

quite forgot the ſound of martiall Hymns, that had wont to ſummon them forth to the fields of honour: Amongſt theſe glorious troopes of London Ladies, Angellica the Earles daughter had the chiefeſt praiſe for beauty and courtly behauiour: for euen as the cleer-ſhining Sunne in a Winters frolly night, ſurpaſſeth the brightneſſe of the twinckling Starres: ſo faire Angellica's ſweet features exceeded the reſt of the Ladies: whereby King Arthur was ſo intangled in the ſnares of loue, that by no meanes he could withdraw his affections from her diuine excellence. He that before delighted to tread a weary march after Bellonas Hymns, was now conſtrained to trace Cupids meaſures in Ladies chambers: and could as well ſtraine the ſtrings of a Lovers Lute, as ſound a Souldiers alarme in the field: her beautie like the Adamant drew his ſteeled heart to lodge in the cloſure of her breſt: and no company delighted ſo much the loue-ſicke King, as the preſence of faire Angellica. So vpon a time as he ſtood looking out of his Chamber window, he eſpied the Pictris of his ſoule ſitting in a Garden vnder a Bower of Vines, prettily picking the ripeſt Grapes with her delicate hands, and toke ſuch pleaſant paines in that mayden like exerciſe, that the well coloured blood in her face began to ware warme, and her cheeks to obtaine ſuch an excellent beauty, that they ſeemed like two purple Roſes interminglt with Hawthorne-buds: whereby King Arthur grew inamoured vpon her, and ſtood for a time ſenſeleſſe through the extreame paſſion he tooke in beholding her beauty: But at laſt, recouering his ſenſes, he ſpake to her in this maner.

Oh moſt diuine Angellica, Natures ſole wonder, thou excellent ornament of Beauty, thy louely face painted with a crimſon dye, thy Roſiall Cheeks ſurpaſſing Snow in whiteneſſe, thy orient Necke like pureſt Iuory, hath like a Fowlers net intangled my perſing heart: whereby it is for euermore impriſoned in thy breaſt. Oh that the golden Treſſes of thy dainty Haire, which ſhine like the Rubies, glittering in the Sunne, had neuer twinckling before my rauiſht eyes, then had my heart inioyed his wonted liberty and my Fancie been free from louers vaine imaginations. Thus, and in like maner, complained the King vnto himſelfe, ſeeking by all meanes

poſſible

passible to exclude Loues fire from his brest. But the more hee strove to abandon it, the more it increased: and feeling no pollicie might preuaile, but that this burning torment must of force bee quenched with her celestiall loue hee descended from his Chamber, and went bouldly into the Garden: where taking Angellica by the hand as shee sate vpon a bed of Violets, which as then grew vnder the Arbour, in this manner began to court her.

Faire of all faires, (sayd the King) deuine and beautious Paragon, faire Flower of London, know that since my aboad in thy Fathers house, thy beauty hath so conquered my affections, and so bereaued me of my liberty, that vnlesse thou vouchsafe to coole my ardent desires with a willing graunt of thy loue, I am like to dye a languishing death, and this Countrey England of force must lose him, that hath fild her boundes with many triumphant Victories: therefore sweete Angellica, if thy hard heart be so obdurate, that the teares of my true loue may nothing mollifie, yet take pitty on thy Countrey, that through thy cruelty, she loose not her wanton glory, and be made vnhappy, by the losse of her Soueraigne: thou seest my diuine Angellica) how I, that haue made Princes stoope, and Kings to humble when I haue frownde, doe now submissiuely yeeld my high honour to thy feete, either to be made happy by thy loue, or vnhappy in thy hate, that in time to come, Children may either blesse, or curse thee: Of these two, consider which thou wilt performe either with cruelty to kill mee, or with clemencie to preserue mee.

This vnexpected request of the King, so amazed Angellica, that her Checks were stayned with blushing shame, and like a bashfull Maiden (for a time) stood silent, not knowing in what manner to answere him, considering hee was King of England, and she but Daughter to an Earle: But at last, when feare and shame had a while strove together in her heart, shee replyed in this sort,

Most mighty King (said shee) if your entertainement in my Fathers house hath beene honorable, seeke not the seule dishonour of his Daughter, nor proffer to blemish the bud of her virginitie with the least thought of yom vnchast desires: the

losse

lesse of which sweet Jemme, is a torment to my soule more worse then death. Consider with your selfe (most worthy Prince) the blacke scandall that it may bring vnto your name and honour, hauing a Quene, a most vertuous and loyall Princesse. Thinke vpon the staine of your marriage bed, the wrongs of your wedded phere, and lasting infamie of your owne glorie, for this I vow (by Dianaes bright maiesty) before I will yeeld the conquest of my virginitie to the spoyle of such vnchast desires, I will suffer more torments, then mans heart can imagine: therefore (most mighty Soueraigne) cease your vnreuerend suite, for I will not loose that matchlesse Jewell, for all the treasure the large Ocean containes: And in speaking these words shee departed thence, and left the louesicke King in the Arbour complaining to the emptie ayre: where after hee had numbred many determinations together, this hee purposed: Neuer to cease his suite, till he had gained what his soule so much desired: for continually at the breake of day, when Titans beautie began to shine, and Auroraes blush to appeare, would hee alwayes send to her Chamber window the sweetest Posies that could bee deuised: thinking thereby to obtaine her Loue. Many times would hee solicite her with rich gifts, and large promises, befitting rather an Empresse then the Daughtes of an Earle, proffering such kindnesses, that if she had a heart of Iron, yet could shee not chuse but relent and requite his curtesies: for what is it that time will not accomplish, hauing the hand of a King set thereunto.

Twelue weary dayes King Arthur spent in wooing of Angellica, before hee could obtaine his hearts happinesse, and his soules content: at the end of which time she was as pliant to his will, as is the tender twig to the hand of the Husbandman. But how their secret meaning required a politie to keepe their pritie loues both from King Arthurs Quene, and from old Androgius, Angellicas Father: and that their secret loues might long time continue without mistrust of any partie whatsoeuer, this deuice they contriued: that Angellica should desire liberty of her Father, to spend the remaine of her life in the seruice of Diana, like one that abandoned all earthly vanitie, honouring true chastity and religious life: So, with a demure

demure countenance, and a ſober grace, ſhe went vnto her Father, and obtained ſuch leaue at his hands, that he willingly condiſcended that ſhe ſhould liue as a profeſſed Nunne, in a Monaſterie that the King before time had builded in the Citie of Lincolne; and ſo furniſhing her forth with ſuch neceſſaries as her ſtate required, he gaue her his bleſſing, and ſo committed her to Dianaes ſeruice.

But now Angellica being no ſooner placed in the Monaſtery and choſen a Sifter of that fellowſhip, but King Arthur many times viſited her in ſo ſecret a maner, and ſo diſguiſedly, that no man ſuſpected their pleaſant meetings: but ſo long talked they the ioyes of loue, that in the end the Nun grew great bellied, and bore King Arthurs quittance ſealed in her wombe, and at the end of forty weeks ſhee was deliuered; where in preſence of the Midwife, and one more whom the King largly recompenced for their ſecrecy, ſhee was made a happy mother of a goodly ſon, whom King Arthur cauſed to be wrapped in a Mantle of greene ſilke, tying a purſe of Gold about his necke, and ſo cauſing the Midwife to beare it into the field, and to lay it at a Shepherds gate nere adioyning to the Citie, in hope the old man ſhould foſter it as his own: by which meanes his Angellica's diſhonour might be kept ſecret from the world, and his owne diſgrace from the murmuring reports of the vulgar people.

This his commandement was ſo ſpeedily performed by the Midwife, that the very next morning ſhe ſtole the young Infant from his mothers keeping, and bore it ſecretly to the place appointed, there laying it downe vpon a turfe of greene graſſe: it ſeemed prettily to ſmile, turning his chriſtall eyes vp towards the elements, as though it foreknew its owne good fortune. This done, the Midwife withdrew her ſelfe ſome little diſtance from that place, and hid her ſelfe cloſely behind a well growne Oake, diligently marking what ſhould betide the comfortleſſe Infant: But long ſhee had not there remained, but there flocked ſuch a number of little Birds about the young harmleſſe Babe, and made ſuch a chirping melody, that it fell into a ſilent ſlumber, and lept as ſweetly as though it had beene laid in a bed of ſofteſt ſilke.

By this time, the golden Sunne began to gliſter on the

Mountaine top, and his Sister Luna to withdraw her waterish countenance: at which time the pleasant Shepherds began to tune their Morning notes, and to repayre vnto their folded Sheepe, according to their wonted manner: Amongst which crew of lusty Swaynes, old Antonio approached forth of his Gate with a chearefull countenance, whose Beard was as white as polished Siluer, or like to Snow lying vpon the Northerne Mountaines: this bonny Shepherd no sooner espyed Angelicaes fowle Babe lying vpon the greene Hillocke, but immediately hee tooke it vp; and viewing circumspectly euery parcell of the rich Vestments wherein it was wrapped, at last found out the Purse of Gold which the King had tyed vnto the Childs necke, whereat the Shepherd so exceedingly reioyced, that for the time he stood as a man ranished with pleasure, and was not able to remoue from the place where he stood: but yet at the last, thinking with himselfe that Heauen had sent him that good fortune, not onely giuing him Riches, but withall a Sonne, to be a comfort to him in his latter yeares: so bearing it in to his old Wife, and withall the Purse of Gold, and the rich Mantle, with the other things: who at the first thereof was as highly pleased as her Husband, when hee found it first: so being both agreed to foster and bring it vp as their owne, considering that Nature neuer gaue them in all their life any child, incontinently they caused it to be christned, and called by the name of Tom A Lincolne (after the Towne where it was found) a name most fitting for it, in that they knew not who were his true parents.

But now speake wee againe of the Midwife, that after shee had beheld how kindly old Antonio receiued the young Infant, shee returned backe vnto Angelicaes Chamber, whom shee found bitterly lamenting the losse of her tender Babe, thinking that some Fayrie Nymph had stolne it away: but such was the kind comfort which the smooth-tonged midwife gaue her in that extremity, whereby her sorrow seemed the lesse, and her mistrustfull feare exchanged into smiling hope: yet neither would the King, nor the Midwife at any time whatsoeuer, make knowne vnto her what was become of her little Sonne, but driuing her off with delayes and fond excuses, lest hauing intelligence of his

his aboad, ſhe ſhould (through kind loue, and naturall affection) goe vifite him, and ſo diſcouer their Loues practices.

Thus liued the moſt faire Angelica many dayes in great griefe, wiſhing his returne, and deſiring Heauen that the Deſtinies might be ſo fauourable, that once againe before the fatall Siſters had finiſhed her life ſhe might behold her Infants face: for whoſe preſence her very ſoule thirſted.

Here will we leaue the ſolitary Lady comfortleſſe and without company (except it were the King, that ſometimes viſited her by ſtealth) and repeat what happened to Tom a Lincolne in the Shepherds houſe.

Chap. II.

Of the manner of *Tom a Lincolnes* bringing vp, and how hee firſt came to be called the *Red roſe Knight*: with other things that hapned to him.

GReat was the wealth that old Antonio gathered together, by meanes of the Treaſure hee found about the Infants attire, whereby hee became the richeſt in all that Country and purchaſt ſuch Lands and Liuings, that his ſuppoſed Sonne (for wealth) was deemed a fit Match for a Knights Daughter: Yet for all this his bringing vp was but meane, and in a homely ſort; for after he had paſſed ten yeares of his age he was ſet to keepe Antonioes Sheepe, and to follow Husbandry, whereby he grew ſtrong and hardy, and continually gaue himſelfe to painefull endeauors, imagining and deuiſing haughty and great enterpriſes: yet notwithſtanding was of honeſt and vertuous conditions, well featur'd valiant, actiue, quick, and nimble, ſharpe-witted, and of a ripe iudgement: hee was of a valiant and inuincible courage, ſo that from his Cradle and infancie, it ſeemed he was vowed to Mars, and martiall exploits. And in his life and manners is deciphered the image of true Nobility: for though hee obſcurely liued in a Country Cottage, yet had he a ſuperious mind, ayming at Kats and mate-

Sir, bearing in his breſt the princely thoughts of his Father. For on a time keeping Cattell in the field among other young men of his age and condition, he was choſen (in ſport by them) for their lord or knight, and they to attend on him like dutifull ſeruants: and although this their election was but in play, yet his whole ſpirits were rauiſhed with great and high matters, firſt, procured them to ſweare to him legalty in all things, and to obey him as a King, where, or when it ſhould pleaſe him in any matter to command them: to which they all moſt willingly condiſcended. Thus after they had ſolemnly taken their oathes, he perſwaded them to leaue that baſe and ſeruile kind of life, ſeeking to ſerue in Warr, and to follow him, being the Generall: the which through perſwaſion they did, and ſo leaning their Cattell to their Fathers and Maſters, they aſſembled all together, to the full number of a hundred at the leaſt: vnto whom he ſeuerally gaue certaine Red Roſes, to be wore for colours in their Hats, and commanded them, that euer after hee ſhould be called the Red-roſe Knight. So in this manner departed he with his followers vnto Barnſdale Heath, where they pitched vp Tents, and liued long time vpon the robberies and ſpoyles of Paſſengers, inſomuch that the whole Countrey was greatly moleſted by them.

This diſordered life ſo highly diſpleaſed the Parents of theſe vnruly Outlawes, that many of them dyed with griefe: but eſpecially of all other, old Antonio took it in ill part, conſidering how dearely hee loued him, and how tenderly hee had brought him vp from his infancie: therefore he purpoſed to practice a meane to call him from that vnlaufull kind of life, if it might poſſible be brought to paſſe: ſo in his old dayes vndertaking this taske, hee trauelled towards Barnſdale Heath: into which being no ſooner entred, but ſome of the vnder ſort of theſe Outlawes ceazed vpon the old man, and without any further violence, brought him before their Lord and Captain: who at the firſt ſight knew him to be his Father (as he thought) and therefore vſed him moſt kindly, giuing him the beſt entertainment that hee could deuiſe: where, after they had ſome ſmall time conferred together, the good old man brake out into theſe ſpeeches.

Oh thou degenerate (quoth he) from natures kind: Is this thy duty to thy fathers age, thus disobediently to liue, wounding thy naturall Country with vnlawfull spoyles? Is this the comfort of mine age? is this thy loue vnto thy Parents, whose tender care hath beene euer to aduance thy estate: Canst thou behold these milk-white haires of mine all to rent and torne, which I haue violently martyred in thy absence? Canst thou indure to see my dim eyes almost sightlesse through age, to drop downe teares at thy disobedient feet? Oh wherefore hast thou infringed the lawes of nature, thus cruelly to kill thy fathers heart with griefe, and to end his dayes by thy vitious life? Returne, returne deare child, banish from thy brest these base actions, that I may say, I haue a vertuous Sonne: and be not like the viperous brood, that works the vntimely death of their Parents. And speaking these words, griefe so exceeded the bounds of Reason, that he stood silent, and beginning againe to speake, teares trickled from his eyes in such abundance, that they stayed the passage of his speech: the which being perceiued by the Red-rose Knight, he humbly fell vpon his knees, and in this sort spake vnto good Antonio:

Most deare and reuerend Father, if my offence doe seeme odious in your eyes, that I deserue no forgiuenesse, then here behold now your poore inglorious Son, laying his brest open, ready prepaced to receiue deaths remorselesse stroke from your aged hands, as a due punishment for this my disobedient crime: but to be reclaimed from this honourable kind of life (I count it honourable, because it tasteth of manhood) first shall the Sun bring day from out the Western heauens, and the siluer Moone lodge her brightnesse in the Eastern waues, and all things else against both kind and nature turne their wonted course.

Well then (quoth Antonio) if thy resolution be such, that neither my bitter teares, nor my faire intreaties may preuaile to withdraw thy vaine folly, then know (thou most vngratious impe) that thou art no Son of mine, but sprung from the bowels of some vntamed Tyger, or wild Lionesse, else wouldst thou humbly submit thy selfe to my reuerent perswasions; from whence thou camest I know not, but sure thy brest harbours the tyranny of some monstrous Tyrant, from whose loynes

thou art naturally deſcended. Thou art no fruit of my body for I found thee (in thy infancie) lying in the fields, caſt out as a prey for ramening Fowles, ready to be devoured by hunger-ſtarved dogs: but ſuch was my pitie towards thee, that I tooke thee vp and ever ſince have foſtered thee as mine owne child: but now, ſuch is thy vnbridled folly, that my kind curteſie is requited with extreame ingratitude, which ſin above all others, the immortall powers of Heauen doe condemne, and the very Deuills themſelues doe hate: therefore like a ſerpent, henceforth will I ſpit at thee, and never ceaſe to make inceſſant prayers to the juſtfull Heauens, to revenge this thy monſtrous diſobedience.

Theſe words being ended, he gaue ſuch an extreame ſigh, that his very heart brake with griefe, and he immediatly dyed in the preſence of the Red-roſe Knight. For whoſe death, hee made more ſorrowfull lamentation, then Niobe did for her ſeuen Sonnes. But in recompence of old Antonioes kind loue, that preſerued his infancie from the fury of rauenous Fowles, he intombed him moſt ſtately in the Citie of Lincolne, whoſe body hee ſent thither by certaine Paſſengers whom hee had taken, and withall a thouſand pound in treaſures, to be beſtowed vpon a great Bell to be rung at his Funerall, which Bell hee cauſed to be called Tom a Lincolne, after his owne name, where to this day it remaineth in the ſame City: Theſe Paſſengers being as then rich Merchants of London, having receiued the dead body of old Antonio, and withall the treaſure, went with all ſpeed vnto Lincolne, and performed every thing as the Red-roſe Knight had appointed.

The death of this good old man not onely cauſed a generall ſorrow through the whole Citie, but ſtrooke ſuch an extreame griefe to old Antonioes wife, that ſhe within few dayes yielded her life to the remorſeleſſe ſtroke of the frowning deſtinies, and was buried in the ſame graue where her Husband was intombed: Whoſe deaths wee will now leaue to be mourned by their deareſt friends, and likewiſe, for breuities ſake, paſſe over many ſtratagems which were accompliſhed by the Red-roſe Knight and his followers vpon Barnſdale Heath, and returne to king Arthur and his Knights, flouriſhing in the Engliſh Court.

CHAP.

Chap. III.

Of the firſt Conqueſt of *Portingale* by the *Red-roſe Knight*, and how hee was the firſt that euer triumphed in the Citie of *London*.

THe report of Tom a Lincolnes practiſes grew ſo generall amongſt the vulgar ſort of people, that at laſt it came to King Arthurs eares, who imagined in his Princely mind, that hee was ſprung of his blood, and that hee carryed lofty thoughts of honour planted in his breſt, though ſhrowded vnder a Countrey life: therefore, though kind nature, hee purpoſed to haue him reſident in Court with him, that he might daily ſee his lively ſparkes of honour ſhew their reſplendent brightneſſe, yet in ſuch obſcurity, that he ſhould not know the ſmalleſt motion of his Parentage; therefore he called together three of his approued Knights, namely Lancelot du Lake, Sir Triſtram, and Sir Triamore, and gaue them in charge, if it were poſſible, to fetch the Red-roſe Knight vnto his Court, of whoſe aduenturous exployts hee hath heard ſo many times reported: and withall hee gaue them generall pardon, ſealed with his priuie Seale, for him and all his lawleſſe followers.

This Commiſſion, being receiued by the three worthie Knights, they with all ſpeed armed themſelues in rich Corſelets, and ſtrong habiliments of War, and ſo rode towards Barneſdale Heath; where being no ſooner come, and deliuered their meſſage from the king, but the Red-roſe Knight gaue them an honourable welcome, and for three daies moſt royally feaſted them vnder large Cannaſſe Tents, wherein they ſlept as ſecurely, as they had been in King Arthurs Court, or in a ſtrong Caſtle of war.

After this, Tom a Lincolne ſelected out a hundred of his reſolute Followers, ſuch as he beſt liked of, and came with Sir Lancelot, and the reſt to the Engliſh Court, where King Arthur

not onely gaue him a friendly entertainment, but also installed him one of his Knights of the Round-table: and withall proclaimed a solemne Turniament, that should be holden in the honour of this new made Knight: to which Turniament, assembled from other countrys, many Princes, Barons, and Knights of high honour, which behaued themselues most nobly, and won great commendations of euery beholder: but specially the Red-rose Knight, who for that day, stood as chiefe Champion against all commers. In that Turniament, or first dayes deed of his Knighthood, where onely by his valour and prowesse hee ouerthrew three Kings, and thirty other Knights, all famoused for Chiualry: whereby he obtained such grace in the English court, that he had by the King a paire of golden Spurres put vpon his feet, and generally of the whole assembly, he was accounted one of the braueſt Knights that then liued in the world.

But now marke, how frowning Fortune ended their Triumphes with vnlucky Newes: for the same day before the Knights had vnbuckled their Armours, there arriued a Messenger, who certified King Arthur, how his Ambassadour was vnjustly done to death in the Portingale Court, (which was an Act contrary both to the Faith of Princes, and the Law of Armes:) For whose death King Arthur grew so inraged, that he sware by the Honour of his bright Renowne, and by the golden Spur of true Knighthood, the Portingales should repent that inhumane violence, with the death of many thousand guiltlesse soules; and that babes vnborne, should haue just cause to curse the first contriuer of that vniust murther: therefore with all speede hee mustred vp a mighty Army of Souldiers, and (because hs was continually molested with home-bred Mutinies, and treacherous rebellions, the which himselfe in person of force must pacifie) appointed the Red-rose Knight as chiefe Generall ouer the Armie mustered for Portingale. In which seruice, hee accomplished so many famous Exploits, that hee was for euer after surnamed, The Boast of England. For no sooner had hee the whole Campe in charge, and aboard their Ships, but hee proued the perfect Patterne of an exquisite Souldier: such a one, as all martiall Captaines may learne to imitate: for hee so circumspectly ordered his Captaines, that

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in his Campe was neuer knowne any brawle or mutinie. He was very courteous and liberall doing honour to all men according to their deserts. He so painefully, and with such care instructed his Souldiers, that at an instant, alwayes (if it were not full) euery man by the sound of a Drumme or a Trumpet, was found in his Charge or Quarter. And (to be briefe) his Campe resembled one of the greatest Cities in the world, for all kind of officers were there found in order: and also a great number of Marchants to furnish it with all manner of necessaries. He in no case permitted any robberies, priuate fighting, force, or violence: but with seuerity punished those that were therein found guilty. His desire was, that his Souldiers should glory in nothing so much, as in Martiall prowesse, Vertue, and wisedome. He euermore gaue them their pay without fraud or deceipt. He honoured, he praised, he imbraced and kissed them, and withall kept them in awe and subiection: by which meanes his fame and honour grew so renowned, that his Army daily increased more and more: For when he first arriued vpon the Confines of Portingale, his Campe grew to be as great as euer was Cæsars, when hee conquered the Westerne world, and in matchlesse prowesse nothing inferiour vnto his. So fortunate were his proceedings, that hee made a great part of the Prouinces of Portingale desolate, not being intercepted by any, but spoyling euery Towne and City as hee went, vntill such time as the Portingale King had gathered together a marueilous number of Souldiers, both olde, and of much experience, by reason of the continuall warres that they had with the Turkish nation adioyning neere vnto them: But when this Portingale King (like an expert Souldier) seeing that no way he might resist the English Army, nor expell them his Countrey, vnlesse he gaue them present battaile, therefore trusting in his approued manhood, and the prowesse of his Souldiers, he set his Army in a readinesse, and so marched forward to meet the Red rose Knight, and his warlike followers, which at that time had pitched his Campe in a large Champoine Plaine, adioyning neere vnto the City of Lishborpe, whereas both these Armies met: and setting them in order (as it became good Captaines) there they beganne (in the breake of

the day) the moſt cruell and terribleſt Battle that euer was heard of, or taught in that age, conſidering the number of both parties, their experience and pollicie, with the valiant courage and prowesſe of their Captaines.

In great danger continued this fight, till the Sun beganne to ſet, with marueilous ſlaughter on both ſides; yet remayned the victory doubtfull, declining neither to the Portingales, nor yet to the Engliſh: but at laſt (though long) the Portingales began to faint and flie, more indéed oppreſt with the multitude then for any feare they receiued in the Battle: for the moſt part of them with honour died manfully in the Field, ſome taken priſoners, and the reſt fled for their better ſafety: but now the Portingale King perceiuing his Souldiers begin to fly, with courage hee ſought to withdraw them from flight, reſiſted in perſon valiantly the furious rage of the enemy: but in that enterprize hee gained ſuch and ſo many knockes, that at laſt he was vnhorſt, and for want of reſcue, was forc'd to yeild himſelfe as priſoner: whereat the whole Armie of the Portingales were diſcomfeſted, and the victory fell to the Engliſhmen: the which being obtained, the Red-roſe Knight with his Armie entred into the Citie of Liſhborne; where the common Souldiers were inriched with wealthy ſpoyles, and the Kings Pallace ranſacked by the Red-roſe Knight: where he tooke ſuch priſoners as him beſt liked, and the reſt (like an honourable Souldier) hee ſet at liberty, commanding that no violence ſhould be proffered any way.

After this, ſetting his Armie in a readineſſe, he marched towards England, where after ſome few dayes trauell, hee arriued with all his Hoaſt in the Weſterne parts of Deuonſhire, and marching towards London, where againſt his comming, the Citizens with the Inhabitants of other villages néere adioyning, were that day ſéene in their moſt ſumptuous and rich attire, euery one of them endeauoring to place himſelfe in ſome Gallery or Window, that the better and with more eaſe they might behold the triumphant returne of the Red-roſe Knight. All the Churches in London were on euery ſide ſet open, hanged round about with moſt coſtly furniture: the ſtreets were alſo moſt gloriouſly beſet with gréene Boughes, and ſtrowed with

with perfumes of no ſmall value: and for the infinite multitude of people that were ſeene in the City, there was appointed a hundred Whifflers moſt richly attyred to keepe the ſtreets plaine and open, whereby the Triumphs might haue the eaſier paſſage: and for that the diuerſity of the ſhewes were ſo many, that they of neceſſity were conſtrained to part them into three ſeuerall dayes.

The firſt day hardly ſufficed in good order to bring in the Banners, Standards, and Enſignes of the Conqueror, the golden Images, and Tables of price, which were all brought in on Carts very curiouſly painted and trimmed.

On the ſecond day came in the Armour of the Conquered King, as alſo of all the other Portingale Lords: and as they were rich, bright, and glittering, ſo were they with moſt cunning ordered and couched in wagons. After theſe entred three thouſand men in order, bearing nothing but money, openly to be ſeene, and that in huge Platters and Veſſells of ſilner: of which were three hundred and fifty together, and foure of our men allotted to euery Veſſell: the other brought in moſt artificiall Tapeſtry works, beautified with gold and ſilner. And thus was the ſecond dayes Triumph ended, in moſt pompous ſolemnity.

Vpon the third day, euen at the riſing of the Sunne, with the firſt Band, entred (as a ioyfull ſound of Conqueſt) an infinite number of Flutes, Drummes, and Trumpets, with other like martiall and warlike Inſtruments, ſounding not after a moſt pleaſant and ſweet manner, but in moſt terrible ſort, as it was poſſible to bee done, euen in ſuch order as they doe when they preſently ioyne battell. And after them came a hundred and twenty Kine all white, hauing their Hornes curiouſly gilded with Gold, their bodies couered with Vailes, (which they accounted moſt ſacred and holy) bearing alſo Garlands of flowers vpon their heads, driuen by certaine young Gentlemen, no leſſe well-fauoured then gorgeouſly attyred. After theſe followed the Coach of the conquered King of Portingale, with his owne Armour layd thereon openly to be ſeene of all men: his Crowne and royall Scepter was layd in ſeemely order vpon his Armour. After his Coach

came Prisoners on foote, with his owne naturall Children, being little Infants: and after them followed a great troope of his Servants and Officers, as Maisters of his Houshold, Secretaries, Ushers, Controllers, Chamberlaines, with other Gentlemen of his Court, all in a most sorrowfull manner, seeing themselues brought into such extremity and servitude, that they moued to compassion all such as beheld them. Of the Kings children there were two Boyes, and one Girle; of age so young and tender, that they had small understanding of their misfortune and misery.

In this triumph followed the Father his owne Children (after the vsage of his Countrey) clad in blacke mourning garments, sorrowing likewise for his hard misfortune. Then followed many of his approued Friends: which, beholding in that plight their vnhappy Prince, brake out into teares and sighs so bitterly, that their enemies themselues grieued at their mishaps.

After these, followed one which carryed certaine precious stones, that had beene presented to the Red rose Knight, from some ancient Cities in Portingale, who immediatly followed in person triumphantly in his Ivory Charriot, apparelled in vestures of purple Tissue, having a Lawrell bough in his hand, and a Crowne of the same vpon his head. After him followed his owne Souldiers, both Foot-men and Horse-men, all marching in most decent order, armed with rich furniture, holding also each of them a Lawrell bough in his hand, their Ensignes and Banners Souldier-like displayed, sounding Martiall melody in honour of their triumphant Captaine: with many other like presidents most royall and magnificent.

Thus in this gallant order marched they to the Kings Chappell, where in the presence of the King and his Lords (which came to honour and grace their Triumphs) they gaue thankes to God for their successfull victory: and after solemne Seruice was ended they departed to King Arthurs Court, where euery one, as well Strangers as others, were most royally feasted.

The Portingale King seeing his kind entertainment in the English Court, where he was vsed more like a Friend, then an

Enemy,

Enemie, had small care to returne home, but froliked many a day amongst the English Lords: whose loues vnto strangers be euermore most honourable. But so great were the courtesies that the noble King Arthur bestowed vpon the Portingales, who for their proffered disgraces, requited them liberally with honour: and not onely sent them home ransomlesse, but promised to lend them ayde and succour from England, if occasion required; So bearing them company to the Sea side, hee most friendly committed them to the mercy of the winds and waues, which were so fauourable, that in short time they arriued safe in their owne Country; where many a day after they remembred the honourable kindnesse of the English-men, and caused the Chronicles of Portingale to record the renowne of King Arthur, and his Knights of the Round Table.

Chap. IIII.

How the *Red-rose Knight* trauelled from the king of *Englands* Court, and how he arriued in the *Fayerie-land*, where he was entertained by a Mayden Queene, and what hapned to him in the same Country.

NOw, after the Portingales were thus conquered, and sent home with great honour, the English King and his Lords, rested themselues many a day in the Bowers of Peace, leauing their Armours rusting, and their pampered Steedes standing in their Stables, forgetting their vsuall manner of wrathfull warre: which idle ease greatly discontented the magnanimious Red-rose Knight, who thought it a staine to his passed glory, and a scandall to his Princely mind to entertaine such base thoughts: and considering with himselfe how ignorant hee was of his true Parents, and from whence hee was descended, hee could not imagine; therefore he purposed to begin a new enterprise, and to trauell vp and downe the world, till hee had either

found his Father and Mother, or else yielded his life to Nature course in that pretended Journey: so going to the King, (still little thinking that he was sprung from so noble a stocke) craving at his Graces hand, to grant him such liberty, for to try his Knight-hood in forraine Countries, whereas yet did never English-man make his adventure; and so eternize his name to all posterity, rather then to spend his life in such home-bred practise.

To this his honourable request, the King (though loath to forgoe his company, yet because it belonged to Knightly Attempts) hee gave him leave, and withall, furnished him a shippe at his owne proper cost and charges, giuing free Licenſe to all Knights whatsoever, to beare him company: amongst which number, Sir Launcelot du Lake was the chiefest that proferred himselfe to that Voyage, who professed such loue to the Red-rose Knight, that they plighted their Faiths like sworne Brothers, and to liue and die together in all extremities.

So these two English Knights, with the number of a hundred more, all resolute Gentlemen, take leave of the King and with all speed went a Ship-board: wherein being no sooner entred, but the Pylot hoisted Sayle and ouſanchored, and so, committed their liues and fortunes to the pleasure of Neptunes mercie, vpon whose watry Kingdome they had not many dayes sayled, but Æolus brazen gates burst open, and the Windes so violently troubled the swelling Waues, that euery minute they were in danger to end their liues in the bottome of the Seas.

Three moneths the wind and the waters strone together for supremacie: during which time, they saw no land, but were driuen vp and downe, to what place the euer changed Destinies listed: so at last they sayled beyond the Sun, directed only by the light of the Starres, not knowing which way to trauell towards land; but in such extremity for want of victuall, that they were forced to land at a certaine Iland in the Westerne parts of the world, inhabited onely by women: where being no sooner on land, and giuing God thankes for deliuering them from that mortall perill, but the Red-rose Knight cast vp his

his eyes towards the higher parts of the Countrey, and eſpied more then two thouſand women comming forth at a Citie gate, all moſt richly armed with Breſt-plates of Silver, marching in trim array, like an Army of well appointed Souldiers: the which number comming neere to the Sea ſide, they ſent two of their Damſels, as meſſengers to the Engliſh Knights, willing them, as they loved their lives, preſently to retire againe backe to the Seas, for that was no Countrey for their abode. But when the Red-roſe Knight of England had underſtood the bold meſſage of the two Damſels, he was ſore abaſhed (conſidering the number of armed women he ſaw before him, and the great dangers they had ſuffered before on the Sea for want of victuals) that he knew not in what manner he was beſt to anſwer them: but having a good courage, hee at laſt ſpake to the two Damſels in this ſort.

Right Noble Ladies, I have well underſtood your ſpeeches: therefore I deſire you for to ſhew ſuch favour unto wandering Travellers as to tell us in what Country Fortune hath brought us to: and for what cauſe we are commanded by you to returne to the Sea?

Surely Sir Knight (anſwered one of the Damſels) this Countrey whereon you are arrived, it is not very bigge, but yet moſt fertile and commodious: and is called by the name of the Fayerie-Land: And now to ſhew you the cauſe why you are commanded to returne, this it is. Not many yeares agoe, there raigned in this Countrey a King which had to name Larmos, for wiſedome and prowelle not his equall was found in any of theſe parts of the world. This King had ſuch continuall war againſt the bordering Flanders, that upon a time he was conſtrained to muſter for the ſame war all the men both young and old which were found in his Kingdome, whereby the whole Countrey was left deſtitute of men, to the great diſcontentment of the Ladies and Damſels that here inhabited: whereupon they finding themſelves ſo highly wronged, living without the company of men, they generally aſſembled themſelves together, with the Daughter of King Larmos, which is called Celia, no leſſe in Beautie, then in Vertue and Wiſedome: Theſe Ladies and Damſels being gathered toge-

ther,

ther, with a generall consent, dispatched certaine Messengers to the King, and to their Husbands, willing them to returne into their Countrey, and not to leaue their wiues any children in such extremity, without the comfort and company of man. Vpon which, the King answered, that he had besieged his enemies in their Townes of War; and before one man should returne home till he came with Conquest, his Country should be lost and made desolate, and the women giuen ouer to the spoyle of his enemies: Which answer, when the Ladies had receiued, they tooke it in such euill part, that they conspired against their King, and Husbands, and put to death all the men children that were in the Country; and after determined, when their Husbands, Fathers, and Friends returned from the War, that they should the first night of their comming, be slaine sleeping in their beds, and that neuer after they should suffer man to enter into their Country. After this conclusion, they crowned Celia the Kings Daughter for their Queene: and so afterward, when the King and his Armie returned from the Wars, this bloody murder was practised, and not a man left aliue, but onely the King reserued, whom Celia would in no wise against nature murther: but yet notwithstanding, she deliuered him into the hands of her chiefest Ladies, which put him into a boat alone, and so sent him to the Sea to seeke his fortune. Therefore most noble Knights, this is the cause, why you may not enter into our Country: which if you doe, and not presently withdraw your selues vnto the Sea, the Ladies will suddenly giue you a meruailous Battell.

Now by the Euer-liuing God, which English-men adore, (said the Noble Red-rose Knight) such extremitie haue wee suffered at Sea, that wee are like to perish and dye with hunger, vnlesse we finde some succour at your hands: and before we will end our liues with famine, we will enter Battell with those Ladies, and so dy with honour in the field: yet this kindnesse doe we humbly desire at your hands, to returne vnto your Queene, and certifie her of our present estate and necessity, and that we altogether instantly desire her, that if there be any sparke of Vertue, or Nobility harboured in her breast, that she will

will haue pitie vpon vs, and ſuffer vs not to end our liues by ſuch an vnhappy kind of death.

With this requeſt the two Damſels returned to the Queen, and recounted from word to word the humble ſuit of the Red-roſe Knight, and what extremity they were in: Which when the Queene vnderſtood, and that they were Knights of England, the fame of which Countrey ſhe had ſo often heard reported, ſhe demanded what manner of people they were, and of what condition? Surely Madam (anſwered one of the two Damſels) I neuer in all my life ſaw more goodly men, nor better ſpoken: and it is to bee ſuppoſed, they be the choyſe of all humane people, and with their courteous demeanors are able to draw the mercileſſe and ſauage Nation to affect them.

The Queene hearing the Damſels ſo highly to commend the Engliſh Knights, thinking alſo vpon their requeſt, began (in minde) to haue pitie of their miſaduentures, and ſo inſtantly ſent for them, and gaue them free libertie to make their abode in her Countrey: which incontinently when the Engliſh Knights heard, how they ſhould receiue a kinde welcome, and a friendly entertainement, grew ſo exceeding ioyfull, as though Heauen had ſent them preſent comfort: ſo comming before the Queene and her Ladies, they ſaluted each other moſt courteouſly, and with great reuerence. But when the vertuous Queene beheld this noble company before her, in all humilitie, ſhe deliuered to a hundred of her Ladies, the hundred Engliſh Knights, and reſerued the Princely Red-roſe Knight vnto her ſelfe: and ſo were they brought to the Queens Pallace, where euery Lady feaſted her Knight in moſt gallant ſort, and to their hearts content. But now when the Queene had the Red-roſe Knight in her Chamber, and had beheld the exceeding beautie of the noble Prince, ſhe tooke him by the hand, and let him into one of her Chambers, where ſhe ſhewed him her Riches and Treaſure: and after ſaid vnto him in this manner.

Moſt noble and valiant Engliſhman, theſe Riches bee all onely at thy Commandement, and alſo my body which here I offer vp as a gift and preſent to thy diuine excellencie: and

furthermore, there is nothing of value, which I am ſpirits of, but ſhall be at thy diſpoſing, to the intent that my loue may be acceptable to thy gracious eyes. But when the Red-roſe Knight perceiued to what intent ſhe ſpake theſe words, in this manner anſwered her, ſaying.

Moſt deare Princeſſe, and faire Queene of this Maiden countrey, I giue you right humble thankes for theſe your courteſies, and by no meanes poſſible may I deſerue this high honour you haue graced me with.

Oh great Knight (replyed then the Queene) the ſmalleſt thought of your honourable mind, is ſufficient to recompence the vttermoſt of my deſerts: yet let me requeſt this one thing at your noble hands, that neuer asked the like fauour of any one before, for ſhe that neuer knew the leaſt motion of loue, is now pricked with a hundred torments: and vnleſſe you quench the ardent affection wherewith my heart is fired, with the pleaſant hopes of your comfortable ſmiles, I am like to die deſperate, and then the world will accuſe you of cruelty, in murdering a conſtant Lady: but if it ſhall pleaſe you to grant mee loue, and to eſpouſe me according to Himens holy Rites, here ſhall you rule ſole King, and be the Lord of all this Countrey.

My right deare Lady (anſwered then the Red-roſe Knight) you haue done ſuch pleaſure to mee, and to my diſtreſſed followers, in preſeruing vs from famine, as I ſhall neuer requite it, though I ſhould ſpend all the reſt of my life in your ſeruice. And know (moſt excellent Princeſſe) that there is no aduenture ſo dangerous, yet at your commandement would I preaſe to accompliſh: yet for to tye my ſelfe in Mediockes bonds there is no woman in the world ſhall procure me: for vntill I haue finiſhed an Aduenture which in my heart I haue vowed I will not linke my affection to any Lady in the world. But thinke not (Madam) that I refuſe your loue through diſdaine: for I ſweare by the dignity of King Arthur grac'd me with, I ſhould thinke my ſelfe moſt fortunate, if I had ſo faire and noble a Lady, as your Highneſſe ſelfe.

Moſt worthy Knight (then anſwered the Queene) I imagine, that the Gods haue ſent you into this Countrey for two cauſes principally: The firſt is, that you and your followers

ſhould

ſhould be preſerued from death by my meanes: The ſecond is that you ſhould inhabit in this Countrey leaſt it ſhould in ſhort time be left as a deſart wildernesſe: for it is inhabited onely by Women without a King, and haue no other Gouernour but me, which am their chiefe Princeſſe: And for ſo much as I haue ſuccoured you, ſo ſuccour you this deſolate Citie, that it may be repeopled with your ſeed: and in ſo doing, you ſhall accomplish a vertuous deed, and winne to your names an eternall memorie to all enſuing ages.

I conteſſe (quoth the Red-roſe Knight) that you and your Ladies haue ſuccoured me and my followers in our great neceſſitie: and in recompenſe whereof, wee will employ all our endeauours to the repeopling againe of this Countrey: But in regard of the ſecret vow my heart hath made, I will not yield my ſelfe to your deſires; for if I ſhould infringe my oath mine Honour were greatly impaired: And before I would commit that diſhonourable fact, I would ſuffer the greateſt torment that mans heart can imagine.

Incontinently, when the lone-ſicke Queene heard this anſwere of the Engliſh Knight, and perceiued that he was firme in his purpoſe, ſhee tooke leaue of him, and departed for that time: the Red-roſe Knight likewiſe withdrew himſelfe into his Chamber, pondring in his mind a thouſand imaginations. But ſhee for her part was ſo troubled in mind, and ſo wounded with the Darts of blind Cupid, that when the milky darkeneſſe of night had couered the earth, ſhee laid her downe vpon her bed, where betwixt Shame and her Heart, beganne a terrible Battell. Her Heart was incouraged, that ſhee ſhould goe and lie with him: but ſhame began to blush, and withſtood that perſwaſion; by which meanes the battell was great, and indured a long time: But at laſt the Heart was Conqueroor, and Shame vanquiſhed and put to flight, in ſuch ſort that the faire Queene roſe from her bed, and went and told her downe by her beloued Knight, where he ſlept: and being in the bed, ſhee began ſcarefully to tremble, for Shame ſtill followed her vnlawfull practiſes: where after her quiuering heart began a little to be qualified, with her trembling hand ſhe awaked him, and after ſpake in this manner.

My moſt deare and affectionat friend, though like a careleſſe wretch I come vnto thee apparelled with ſhame, yet let my true Loue colour this my infamous preſumption: for your Princely perſon, and Kingly demeanours, like Adamants haue drawne my ſtaeled Heart to commit this ſhamefull act; yet let not my feruent Affection bee requited with Diſdaine: and although you will not conſent to bee my wedded Lord and husband, yet let me be thy Loue and ſecret Friend; that a poore diſtreſſed Queene may thinke her ſelfe happy in an Engliſhmans loue.

When the noble Knight heard the faire Cælias boyce, and felt her by his ſide all naked, hee was ſo ſore abaſhed, that hee wiſt not what to doo: but yet at laſt hauing the nature and courage of a man, hee turned to her, vſing many amorous ſpeeches, embracing and kiſſing each other in ſuch manner, that faire Cælia was conceiued with Child, and wart great of a right faire Sonne: of whom ſhe was in proceſſe of time ſafely deliuered; as you ſhall heare diſcourſed at large in the following Hiſtorie.

But to be ſhort, during the ſpace of foure Moneths, the Faiery Ladies lay with the Engliſh Knights, and many of them were conceiued with their ſeede in ſuch ſort, that the Countrey was afterward repeopled with male Children, and what happned amongſt them in the meane ſeaſon I will paſſe ouer for this time: for the dayes and nights (that he and the reſt) paſſe on their wonted courſe: in which time their Ship was repleniſhed with all neceſſaries, and the Red-roſe Knight ſummoned together Sir Launcelot and the reſt: and being aſſembled, hee ſaid vnto them.

My good Friends, and Countrey-men, you know, that long time we haue ſoiourned in this Countrey, ſpending our dayes in idle paſtimes, to the reproach of our former glories: now my intent is, within theſe three dayes to depart this Countrey, therefore let euery man make himſelfe in readineſſe: for there is no greater diſhonour to aduenturous Knights, then to ſpend their dayes in Ladies boſomes.

When Sir Launcelot and the other Engliſh Gentlemen heard the forward diſpoſition of the Red-roſe Knight, they were all

exceeding joyfull, and anſwered him; that with great willingneſſe they would all be ready at the time appointed.

But now, when the Fayerie Ladies perceived the preparations that the Engliſh Knights made for their departure, they grew exceeding ſorrowfull, and complained one to another in moſt grievous manner: but amongſt the reſt, the Queene was moſt diſpleaſed, who with a ſorrowfull and ſad heart came vnto the Red-roſe Knight, and in this manner complained to him.

Alas, alas, my deare Lord, haue ye that tyrannous heart, to withdraw your ſelfe from me, and to forſake me before you ſee the fruit of your Noble perſon, which is nourished with my bloud. Deare Knight, behold with pitie my wombe, the chamber and manſion of your bloud: Oh let that be a meanes to ſtay you, that my child (as yet vnborne) be not fatherleſſe by your departure. And in ſpeaking theſe words, ſhee began to weepe and ſigh bitterly, and after to whiſper ſecretly to her ſelfe in this order.

Oh you immortall heauens, how may mine eyes behold the departure of my joy! for being gone, all comfort in the world will forſake me, and all conſolation fly from me: and contrariwiſe, all ſorrow will purſue me, and all misfortune come againſt me. Oh what a ſorrow will it be to my ſoule, to ſee thee floating on the dangerous Seas, where euery minute, perils doe ariſe ready to whelme thee in the bottomleſſe Ocean! and being once exempted from my ſight, my heart for euermore ly in the bed of tribulation, vnder the couerture of mortall deſtreſſe, and betweene the ſheets of eternall bewailings. Yet if there be no remedy, but that thou wilt needs depart, ſweare vnto me, that if euer thou doſt accompliſh thy pretended voyage, (what it is I know not) that thou wilt returne againe to this Country, to tell me of thy happy fortunes, and that mine eyes may once more behold thy louely countenance, which is as delectable to my ſoule, as the Ioyes of Paradiſe.

When the Noble Engliſh Knight vnderſtood that the Queene condiſcended to his departure, vpon condition of his returne to which he ſolemnly proteſted, if the Gods gaue him life and good fortune, to performe her requeſt: whereby the

Fayrie Queene was somewhat recomforted: and hauing great hope in the returne of her deare Loue, she ceased her lamentations. And now (to abridge the Story) the time came that the valiant Englishmen should goe a Ship-board: vpon which day, the Red-rose Knight and his followers, tooke leaue of the noble Queene and her Ladies, thanking them for their kind entertainments, and so went to the Port of the Sea, where they entred their Ships, and so departed from the Fayrie Land. After this, when Cælia had borne her Babe in her wombe full forty weeks she was delivered of a faire Son, who came afterward to be called the Fayrie Knight: which for this time we will not touch, but refer it to the second part of this History.

Chap. V.

What hapned to the English Knights, after their departure from the Fayrie Land.

With a prosperous Wind sayled these English Knights, many a League from the Fayerie Land, to their great content and hearts desire, where euery thing seemed to Prognosticate their happy Aduentures: so vpon a day when the Sunne shone cleare, and a gentle calme Wind caused the Seas to lye as smooth as Chrystall Ice, whereby their Ship lay floating on the Waues, not able to remoue: For whilest the Dolphins daunc'd vpon the siluer Streames, and the red gild Fishes leapt about the Ship, the Red-rose Knight requested Sir Lancelot, to driue away the time with some Courtly Discourse, whereby they might not thinke their Voyage ouer long. Unto which the good Sir Lancelot most willingly agreed: and although hee was a Martiall Knight, delighting to heare the relentlesse sound of angry Drums, which thunders threats from a Massaker, yet could hee like an Orator, as well discourse a Louers History: therefore requesting the Red-rose Knight, and the other English

English Gentlemen, to sit downe and listen to the Tale that followeth.

The pleasant History which Sir *Lancelot du Lake* told to the *Red-rose Knight*, being a Ship-board.

AT that time of the yeare, when the Birds had nipt away the tawny leaues, and Flora with her pleasant Flowers, had inricht the earth, and incloathed Trees, Herbes, and Flowers, with Natures Tapistrie, when the golden Sunne with his glistring Beames did glad mens hearts, and euery Leafe as it were, did beare the forme of Loue, by Nature painted vpon it: This blessed time did cause the Grecian Emperour to proclaime a solemne Turniament to be holden in his Court, which as then was replenished with many worthy and valiant Knights: but his desire chiefely was, to behold his Princely Sonne Valentine, to try his Valour in the Turniament.

Many were the Ladies that repayred thither, to behold the worthy Triumphs of this young Prince: amongst which number came the beautifull Dulcippa, a Mayden which as then waited vpon the Empresse, being Daughter to a Countrey Gentleman. This Dulcippa, like Apollos Flower, being the fayrest Virgin in that company, had so firmely setled her loue vpon the Emperours Son, that it was impossible to expell it from her heart. Likewise his affection was no lesse in feruentie then hers: so that there was a just equality in their Loues and liking, though a difference in their Birthes and Callings.

This Princely Valentine, (for so was the Emperours Sonne called) entred the Listes in costly Armour most richly wrought with Orient Pearles, his Crest incompassed with Saphire Stones, and in his hand a sturdie Launce. Thus mounted vpon a milke-white Steed, he vaunted forth himselfe to try his warlike force: and in prauncing vp and downe he many times (thorough his Veuer) stole a view of his faire Dulcippa's face: at which time, there kindled in his Brest two sundry Lampes: the one was to win the honour of the

day.

day; the other, to obtaine the loue of his Mistresse. On the other side, Dulcippa did nothing but report the valiant acts of his prowesse and chiualrie, in such sort, that there was no other talke amongst the Ladies, but of Valentines honourable attempts.

No sooner was the Turniaments ended and this loue begun, but Dulcippa departed to her lodging, where sighs did serue as bellowes to kindle Loues fire. Valentine in like manner being wounded to death, still roameth vp and downe to find a salue for his Ranchlesse thirst: so seeks Dulcippa to recouer her former liberty: for, she being both beloued, and in loue knew not the meanes to comfort her selfe. Sometimes she did exclaime against her wandring eyes, & wished they had ben blind when first they gazed vpon the beauty of Princely Valentine: Sometimes in visions she beheld his face cheerfull, smiling vpon her countenance: and presently againe, shee thought she saw his martiall hands bathed all in purple blood, scorning her loue and former courtesies. With that she started from her dreaming passion, wringing her tender hands, till floods of siluer dropping teares trickled downe her face: Her golden hayre that had wont to be bound vp in threds of gold, hung dangling downe about her Iuory neck: the which in most outragious sort she rent and tore, till that her hayre which before lookt like burnisht gold, were dyed now in purple and Vermilion blood. In this strange passion remained this distressed Lady, till the Golden Sunne had three times lodged him in the Western Seas, and the siluer Moone her shining face in the Pallace of the Chrystall Clouds. At this time a heauy slumber possessed all her senses: for she, whose eyes before in three dayes, and as many nights, had not shut vp their closets, was now lockt vp in silent sleepe, lest her heart ouer-burthened with griefe, by some vntimely manner should destroy it selfe.

But now returne we to the worthy Valentine, who sought not to pine in passion, but to court it with the best, considering with himselfe, that a faint heart neuer gain'd faire Lady: therfore hee purposed boldly to discouer his loue to the faire Dulcippa, building vpon a fortunate successe, considering that shee was but Daughter to a Gentleman, and he a Prince borne, so

attiring himſelfe in coſtly ſuites, wearing in his hatte, an Indian pearle cut out of Ruby red. On eyther ſide a golden Arrow thrust through a bleeding heart; to declare his earneſt affection. In this manner went he to his beloued Lady, whom he found in company of other Ladies waighting vpon the Empreſſe: who taking her by the hand, he led her aſide into a Gallery more adioyning: where he began in this maner to expreſſe the paſſion of his loue.

Sacred Dulcippa, (quoth he) in beauty brighter then glittering Cynthia, when with her beames ſhe beautifies the vales of Heauen. Thou art that Cynthia, that with thy brightneſſe doſt light my cloudy thoughts, which haue many dayes beene ouer caſt with ſtormy ſhowers of Loue: Shine with thy beames of mercie on my mind, and let thy light conduct mee from the darke and obſcure Labyrinths of Loue. If teares could ſpeake, then ſhould my tongue keepe ſilence: Therefore, let my ſighes bee meſſengers of true loue. And though in words I am not able to deliuer the true meaning of my deſires: yet let my cauſe beggo pitie at your hands. Otherwiſe your denialll drowneth my ſoule in a bottomleſſe Sea of ſorrow: one of theſe two (moſt beautious Lady) doo I deſire: either to giue life with a cheerefull ſmile, or death with a fatall frowne. Valentine hauing no ſooner ended his loues oration, but ſhe with a ſcarlet countenance, returned him this ioyfull anſwere.

Moſt noble Prince, thy words within my heart haue knit a gordian knot, which no earthly Wight may vnlie: for it is knitte with faithfull Loue, and teares, diſtilling from a conſtant minde. My heart which neuer yet was ſubiect to any one doe I freely yeild vp into thy boſome, where it for euermore ſhall reſt, till the fatall ſiſters cut our liues aſunder. And in ſpeaking theſe words they kiſſed each other as the firſt earneſt of their loues. With that the Empreſſe came thorow the Gallerie, who eſpying their ſecret conference, preſently vnfolded in her ſecret hate, which ſhee intended to practiſe againſt the guiltleſſe Lady, thinking it a ſcandall to her Sonnes birth to match in marriage with one of ſo baſe a parentage: Therefore purpoſing to croſſe their loues with diſ-

mall ſtratagems, and dreary Tragedies, ſhee departed to her Chamber, where ſhee cloſed her treacheries vp in ſilence, and pondered in her heart how ſhe might end their loues, and finiſh Dulcippaes life. In this tragicall imagination remained ſhe all that night hammering in her head a thouſand ſeuerall practices. But no ſooner was the dewy earth comforted with the hot beames of Apolloes fire, but this thirſting Empreſſe aroſe from her carefull bed, penning her ſelfe cloſely within her Chamber, like one that made no conſcience for to kill: ſhe in all haſt ſent for a Doctor of Phiſicke, not to giue Phyſicke to reſtore health, but poyſon for vntimely death; who being no ſooner come into her preſence, but preſently ſhe lockt her Chamber doore, and with an angry countenance, ſtaring him in the face, ſhee breathed this horrour into his harmleſſe eares.

Doctor, thou knoweſt how oft in ſecret matters I haue vſed thy helpe, wherein as yet I neuer ſaw thy faith falſified: but now amongſt the reſt I am to require thy ayd in an earneſt buſineſſe, ſo ſecret, that if thou doſt but tell it to the whiſpering windes, it is ſufficient to ſpread it through the whole world: whereby my practices may be diſcouered, and I be made a noted reproach to all hearers.

Madam (quoth the Doctor, whoſe heart harboured no thought of bloody deeds) what needs all theſe circumſtances where duty doth command my true obedience? deſiſt not therefore, gentle Empreſſe, to make me priuie to your thoughts: for little did hee thinke her mind could harbour ſo vile a thought: but hauing coniured moſt ſtrongly his ſecrecie, ſhe ſpake to him as followeth.

Doctor, the loue (nay rather raging luſt) which I haue ſpied of late betwixt my vnnaturall ſonne, and proud Dulcippa may in ſhort time (as thou knowſt) bring a ſuddaine alteration of our ſtate, conſidering that he being borne a Prince, and deſcended from a royall race, ſhould match in marriage with a baſe and ignoble Mayden, daughter but to a meane Gentleman: therefore if I ſhould ſuffer this ſecret loue to goe forward, and ſeeke not to preuent it, the Emperour might condemne mee of falſhood, and iudge me an agent in this vnlawfull loue; which to auoyd, I haue a practice in my head, and in thy hand it lyes

to

to procure thy Princes happineſſe, and Countreyes good. Dulcippa's father (as thou knowſt) dwells about three miles from my Pallace, vnto whoſe houſe I will this day ſend Dulcippa, about ſuch buſineſſe as I thinke beſt, where thou ſhalt be appointed, and none but thou to conduct her thither: where in a thick and bushy grove, which ſtandeth directly in the mid-way, thou ſhalt giue her the cup of death, and ſo rid my heart from ſuſpicious thoughts.

This bloody practice being pronounced by the Empreſſe, cauſed ſuch a terrour to enter into the Doctors minde, that he trembled forth this ſorrowfull complaint.

Oh you immortall powers of heauen, you guider of my hapleſſe fortunes, why haue you thus ordayned me to be the bloody murderer of a chaſt and vertuous Lady, and the true patterne of ſobriety; whoſe vntimely ouerthrow if I ſhould but once conſpire, Diana's Nymphs would turne their wonted Natures, and ſtaine their hands with my accurſed blood: Therefore, moſt glorious Empreſſe, ceaſe your determination, for my heart will not ſuffer my hand to commit ſo foule a villany.

And wilt thou not doe it then (replied the Empreſſe, with a minde fraught with rage and blood:) I doe protеſt (quoth ſhe) by Heauens bright Maieſtie, except thou doſt conſent to accompliſh my intent, thy head ſhall warrant this my ſecreſſe. Stand not on termes, my reſolute attempt is cleane impatient of obiections.

The Doctor hearing her reſolution, and that nothing but Dulcippa's death might ſatisfie her wrath, hee conſented to her requeſt (and purpoſed cunningly to diſſemble with the bloody Queene) who believed that hee would performe what ſhee ſo much deſired: ſo departing out of her chamber, ſhe ſent to the guiltleſſe Lady, ſending her on this fatall meſſage; who like to hapleſſe Bellerophon was ready to carry an embaſſage of her owne death. But in the meane time the Doctor harboured in his breſt a world of bitter throes, to thinke how vilely this vertuous Lady was betrayd: and conſidering in his mind, how that he was forced by conſtraint to performe this tragedy; therefore hee purpoſed not to giue her a cup of poyſon, but a ſleeping

Drinke, to cast her into a trance, which shee should as a cup of death receiue; as well to try her vertuous Constancie, as to rid himselfe from so hainous a crime.

But now returne wee to Dulcippa, who being sped of her message, went with the Doctor walking on the way, where all the talke which they had was of the liberall praise of Prince Valentine, who remained in Court, little mistrusting what had happened to his beloued Lady: and she likewise ignorant of the hurt that was pretended against her life: but being both alone together in the wood, where nothing was heard but chirping Birds, which with their voyces seemed to mourne at the Ladies misfortune. But now the Doctor breaking off their former talke, tooke occasion to speake as followeth.

Man of all other creatures (most vertuous Lady) is most miserable, for Nature hath ordained to euery Bird a pleasant tune to bemoane their mishaps, the Nightingale doth complaine her Rape and lost Virginity within the desart Groues: the Swanne doth likewise sing a dolefull heauie tune a while before shee dies, as though heauen had inspired her with some fore-knowledge of things to come. You Madame, now must sing your Swan-like song; for the pretty Birds (I see) doe droope their hanging heads, and mourne to think that you must die. Marmaile not Madam, the angry Queene will haue it so. Accurst am I in being constrayned to bee the bloody instrument of so tyrannous a fact. Accurst am I that haue ordained that Cup, which must by Poyson stanch the thirst of the bloody Empresse: and most accursed am I, that cannot withstand the angry Fates, which haue appointed mee to offer violence vnto vertue. And in speaking these words, he deliuered the Cup into the Ladies hands: who like a Lambe that was led to the slaughter, vsed silence for her excuse. Many times lift shee vp her eyes toward the starred Throne of Heauen, as though the gods had sent downe vengeance vpon her guiltlesse soule, and at last breathed foorth these sorrowfull lamentations.

Neuer (quoth shee) shall vertue stoope to vice. Neuer shall Death affright my soule; nor neuer Poyson quench that lasting loue, which my true heart doth beare to Princely Valentine,

tine: whose Spirits (I hope) shall meet mee in the joyfull Fields of Elizium, to call those Ghosts, that dyed for Faithfull loue, to beare me witnesse of my Faith and Loyalty: and so taking the Cup, she said; Come, come, thou most blessed Cup, wherein is contained that happy Drinke, which giues rest to troubled minds. And thou most blessed Wood, beare witnesse, that I mixe this banefull Drinke with teares distilling from my bleeding heart. These Lips of mine that had wont to kisse Prince Valentine shall now most willingly kisse this Ground, that must receiue my Corse. The author of my death, Ile blesse; for she honours me, in that I die for my sweet Valentines sake. And now Doctor to thee (being the instrument of this my Death) I doe bequeath all earthly happinesse: and here withall, I drinke to Valentines good fortune: So drinking of the sleeping Potion, she was presently cast into a trance; which shee poore Lady, supposed death. The Doctor greatly admiring at her vertuous mind, erected her body against an aged Oake, where he left her sleeping, and with all speed returned to the hatefull Queene, and told her, that he had performed her Maiesties command: who gaue him many thanks, and promised to requite his secresie with a large recompence.

But now speake we againe of Prince Valentine, who had intelligence, how the onely comfort of his heart had ended her life by poysons violence: for which cause, he leaues the Court; and conuerted his rich attire to ruthfull Roabes: his costly coloured Garments, to a homely russet Coat; and so traualing to the solitary woods, he vowed to spend the rest of his dayes in a Shepherds life: his royall Scepter was turned into a simple Sheephooke, and all his pleasure was to keepe his Sheepe from the teeth of the rauenous Wolues.

Three times had glistering Phœbe renewed her horned wings, and decket the elements with her smiling countenance: Three moneths were past, three Moones had likewise runne their wonted compasse, before the Grecian Emperour mist his Princely Sonne: whose want was no sooner bruted through the Court, but hee eechoed forth this horrour to himselfe.

What cursed Planet thus indirectly rules my haplesse course? or what uncouth dryery Fate hath bereaued me of my Princely Son? Ioue send downe thy burning Thunderbolts, and strike them dead that be procurers of his want: But if, (sweet Venus) he be dead for loue, houer his Ghost before mine eyes that he may discouer the cause of his afflictions. But contrariwise, if his life be finished by the fury of some murtherous mind, then let my exclamations pierce to the iustfull Maiestie of Heauen, that neuer Sun may shine vpon his hated head, which is the cause of my Valentines decay: Or, that the angry Furies may lend me their burning whips, incessantly to scourge their purple soules, till my Sons wrongs be sufficiently reuenged. Thus, or in such a like franticke humour ranne he vp and downe his Pallace, till Reason pacified his outragious thoughts, and by perswasion of his Lords, he was brought into his quiet bed. Meane space, Diana (the Queene of Chastitie) with a traine of beautifull Nymphs, by chance came through the Wood where Dulcippa was left in her trance: in which place, rousing the Thickets in pursuit of a wild Hart, the Queene of Chastity espied the harmlesse Lady standing against a Tree, and beheld her sweet breath to passe through her closed lips: At whose presence, the Queene awhile stood wondring at; but at last with her sacred hand she awaked her, & withall asked the cause of her trance, and by what meanes she came thither? Which poore awaked Lady, being amazed both at her sudden Maiestie, and the strangenesse of her passed Fortune and distresse, with farre fetcht sighes, shee related what happened to her in those desart Woods. The heauenly Goddesse being moued with pitie, with a most smiling voyce cheared her vp, and with a Lilly taken from the ground, she wiped the teares from off Dulcippas tender cheeks, which like a riuer trickled from her Chrystall eyes. This being done, Diana with an Angels voyce, spake vnto her as followeth:

Sweet Virgin (for so it seemeth thou art) sacre better would it befit thy happy estate (happy I terme it) hauing past so many dangers, to spend the remnant of thy life amongst my Traine of Nymphs, whereas springeth nothing but Chastity and purity of life. Dulcippa, though in her loue both firme and constant,

conſtant, yet did ſhe condiſcend to dwell with Dianas Nymphs: where now, inſtead of parly with Courtly Gallants, ſhee ſingeth Songs, Carols, and Roundelayes: in ſtead of Pen and Inke, wherewith ſhe was wont to write Loue-letters, ſhee exerciſeth her Bow and Arrowes, to kill the ſwift fat Deare: and her downy Beds are pleaſant Groues, where pretty Lambs doe graze.

But now returne we againe to the raging Emperour, who ſifted the matter out in ſuch ſort, that he found the Empreſſe guiltie of her Sons want, and the Doctor to be the inſtrument of Dulcippaes death: who being deſperat (like one that vtterly deteſted the cruelty of the Empreſſe) would not allege, that he had but ſet the Lady in a trance, but openly confeſſed that he had poyſoned her and for that fact was willing to offer vp his life to ſatiſfie the Law, therefore the angry Emperour ſweares, that nothing ſhall ſatisfie his Sonnes reuengement but death: and thereupon ſtraightly commanded the Empreſſe to be put in priſon, and the Doctor likewiſe to be lockt in a ſtrong Tower: but yet becauſe ſhee was his lawfull Wife, and a Princeſſe borne, he ſomething ſought to mitigate the Law, that if any one within a twelue-month and a day would come and offer himſelfe to combat in her cauſe againſt himſelfe, which would be the appealant Champion, ſhe ſhould haue life: if not to be burnt to aſhes, in ſacrifice of his Sons death: all which was performed as the Emperour had commanded.

But now all this while the poore Prince lines alone within the Woods, making his complaints to the flocks of Sheepe and waſhing their wooll with his diſtreſſed teares. His bed whereon his body reſted, was turfe into a Sun-burnd banke: his chaire of Mate, couered with graſſe: his muſicke, the whiſtling winde: the Rethoricke, pitifull complaints and moanes, wherewith he bewailed his paſſed fortunes, and the bitter croſſes of his vnhappy loue.

The ſolitarie place wherein this Prince remained, was not farre diſtant from the Groue, where Dulcippa led her ſacred life: who by chance in a morning at the Sunnes vpriſing, attyred in greene veſtments, bearing in her hand a

Bow

Bow bended, and a quiuer of arrowes hanging at her backe, with her hayre tyed vp in a Willow wreath, lest the Bushes sheuld catch her golden Edesses to beautifie their branches: in this maner comming to hunt a sauage Hart, shee was surprized by a bloody Satyre bent to rape, who with a bloody mind pursued her: and comming to the same place where Prince Valentine fed his mourning Lambes, he ouertooke her, whereat shee gaue such a terrible shrieke in the Wood, that shee stirred vp the Shepherds princely mind to rescue her: but now when the bloody Satyre beheld a face of Maiesty shrowded in a Shepherds cloathing, immediatly he scudded through the Woods more swift then euer the fearfull Deare did run.

But now gentle Reader, here stay to reade a while, and thinke vpon the happy meeting of these Louers: for surely the imagination thereof will lead a golden wit into the Labyrinth of heauenly ioyes: but being breathlesse in auoyding passed dangers, they could not speake a word, but with sted-fast eyes stood gazing each other in the face: but comming againe to their former senses, Valentine brake silence with this wauering speech.

What heauenly wight art thou (quoth hee) which with thy beautie hast inspired me?

I am no Goddesse (replyed she againe) but a Virgin vowed to keepe Diana company, Dulcippa my name: a Lady sometime in the Grecian Court, whilst happy fortune smiled; but being crost in loue, here doe I vow to spend the remnant of my dayes. And with that, hee catching the word out of her mouth, said:

Oh you immortall Gods: and is my Dulcippa yet aliue? I, I, aliue I see she is: I see that sweet celestiall beautie in her face, which hath banished deepe sorrow from my heart: and with that kissing her, he said; See, see, fairest of all faires that nature euer made, I am thy Valentine, that vnhappy Loue, the Prince of Greece, the Emperours true Sonne, who for thy louely sake am thus disguised, and for thy loue haue left the gallant Court, for this sweet and homely country life. With that, she tooke him about his manly necke, and breathed many a bitter sigh into his bosome: and after with

weeping

weeping teares, diſcourſed all her paſſed dangers, as well the cruelties of the Empreſſe, as of the vertuous deed of the good Doctor. And having both recounted their paſſed fortunes, they conſented (diſguiſed as they were) to trauell to the Grecian Court to ſee if the Deitties had transformed the ſtate of the Emperour or his regiment; for now no longer entreries, nor beanie ſtratagems, or ſorrowfull thoughts ſought to purſue them; but ſmiling fortune, gracious delights, and happy bleſſings. How Fortune neuer meant to turne her wheele againe, to croſſe them with calamities, but intended with her hand to powre into their hearts oyle of laſting peace. Thus whilſt Apolloes beames did parch the tender twigs, theſe two Louers ſate ſtill vnder the branches of a ſhadie Beech, recounted ſtill their loues and pleaſures: and ſitting both thus vpon a graſſy bancke, there came trauelling by them an aged old man: bearing in his withered hand a ſtaffe to ſtay his benummed body: whoſe face when Prince Valentine beheld, with a gentle voyce he ſpake vnto him in this ſort.

Father, God ſaue you: How happeneth that you wearied with age, doe trauell through the deſart Groues, beſitting ſuch as can withſtand the checks of Fortunes ſickleneſſe: Come faire old man ſit downe by vs: whoſe minds of late were mangled with griefe, and croſt with worldly cares.

This good old Hermite hearing the curteous requeſt of the Prince, ſate downe by them, and in ſitting downe, he tumbled forth this ſpeech.

I come (young man) from yonder Citie, whereas the Emperour holds a beanie Court, and makes exceeding ſorrow for the want of his eldeſt Sonne, and for a Lady which is likewiſe abſent: the Empreſſe being found guilty of their wants, is kept cloſe priſoner, and is condemned to be burnt, vnleſſe within a twelue moneth and a day, ſhe can get a Champion that will enter Battaile in her cauſe: and with her, a Doctor alſo is adiudged to ſuffer death. Great is the ſorrow that is there made for this noble Prince, and none but commends his vertue: and withall the deſerued prayſes of the abſent Lady.

Father (replyed then the Prince) thou haſt told vs tidings

full of bitter truth, able to enforce an iron heart to lament: for cruell is the wrong, and most vnnaturall the Emperour, to deale so harshly with his Queene.

May (quoth the old man) if she be guilty, I cannot pitie her, that will cause the ruine of so good a Prince: for higher powers must give example vnto their subiects.

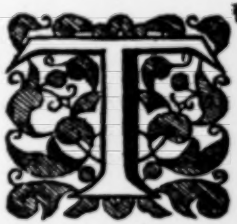
By Lady Father (quoth the Princely Shepheard) you can well guesse of matters touching Kings; and to be a witnesse of this accident, wee will presently goe vnto the Court and see what shall betide vnto this distressed Queene. This being said, they left the aged man, and so trauailed towards the Grecian Court: and by the way, these Louers did consult, that Prince Valentine attired like a Shepheard, should offer himselfe to combat in his Mothers cause, and so to expresse the kinde loue and nature which was lodged in his Princely breast. But being no sooner arriued in the Court, and seeing his Father to take the combat vpon himselfe, presently he kneeled downe, and like an obedient Sonne, discouered himselfe, and withall Dulcippas strange fortunes: whereupon the Empresse and the Doctor were presently deliuered, and did both most willingly consent to ioyne these two Louers in the bands of Marriage: where after they spent their dayes in peace and happinesse.

This pleasant Discourse being ended, which Sir Lancelot had told to the exceeding pleasure of the greatest company, but especially of the Red-rose Knight, who gaue many kind thanks. At this time the winds began to rise, and blow cheerefully, by which they sayled on their iourney successfully from one coast to another, till at the last they arriued vpon the coasts of Prester Johns Land, which was in an euening when the day began to lose her christall Mantle, and to giue place to the Sable garments of gloomy night: where they cast Anchor, vnseene of any of that Countrey Inhabitants.

CHAP.

Chap. VI.

What happened to the *Red-roſe Knight*, and his company in the Court of *Preſter Iohn*; and how the *Red-roſe Knight* ſlew a Dragon with three tongues, that kept a Golden tree in the ſame Countrey; with other attempts that happened.



The next morning by the breake of day, the Red-roſe Knight roſe from his Cabbin, and went vpon the Hatches of the Ship, caſting his eyes round about, to ſee if he could eſpy ſome Towne or Citie where they might take harbour: and in looking about he eſpyed a great ſpacious Citie, in the middle whereof ſtood a moſt ſumptuous Pallace, having many high Towers ſtanding in the aire like the Grecian Pyramides, the which he ſuppoſed to be the Pallace of ſome great Potentate: therefore ſailing (ſir Lancelot (with two other Knights) vnto him, he requeſted them to goe vp into the City, and to enquire of the Countrey, and who was the Gouernour thereof: the which thing they promiſed to doe: ſo arming themſelues (as it was conuenient, being ſtrangers in that Countrey) they went vp into the Citie; where they were preſently preſented vnto Preſter Iohn, who (being alwayes liberall and courteous vnto Strangers) gaue them a royall entertainment, leading them vp into his Pallace: and hauing intelligence that they were Engliſh-men, and aduenturous trauellers, hee ſent foure of his Knights for the reſt of their company, deſiring them in the Knights behalfe to returne to the Court, where they ſhould haue a friendly welcome, and a Knightly entertainment.

Thus when the Red-roſe Knight had vnderſtood the will of Preſter Iohn by his foure Knights, the next euening with his whole company hee repayred to the City, which was right noble and faire, and although it was night, yet were the Streets as light as though it had beene mid-day, by the cleare

resplendent brightnesse of Torches, Cressetts, and other Lights which the Citizens ordained to the entertaining of the English Knights. The streets through which they passed to goe to the Kings Pallace, were filled with people, as Burgomasters, Knights, and Gentlemen, with Ladies and beautifull Damosells, which in comely order stood beholding their cõming. But when the Red-rose Knight was entred the Pallace, hee found the renowned Prester Iohn sitting upon his Princely Throne, underpropt with pillars of Jasper stone: who after he had given them an honourable welcome, he took the Red-rose Knight by the hand, and led him by into a large and sumptuous Hall, the richest that ever he had seene in all his life: But in going by certaine stayres hee looked in at a window, and espyed faire Anglitora the Kings daughter, sporting amongst other Ladies; which was the fayrest Mayd that ever mortall eye beheld, and I thinke that Nature her selfe could not frame her like: but being entred the Hall, they found the Tables covered with costly fare ready for supper: when as the English Knights were set at the Kings Table, in company of Prester Iohn and Anglitora, with other Ladies attending (having good stomachs) they fed lustily; but Anglitora, which was placed right over against the Red-rose Knight, fed onely upon his beauty and Princely behaviour, not being able to withdraw her eyes from his divine excellencie: but the renowned Prester Iohn for his part spent away the supper time with many pleasant conferences touching the Countrey of England, and King Arthurs Princely court: the report of which fame had so often sounded in his eares. But amongst all other devices, hee told the English Knights of a Tree of gold, which now grew in his Realme, and yearely brought forth golden fruit but he could not inioy the benefit thereof, by reason of a cruell Dragon that continually kept it: for the conquest of which golden tree, hee had many times solemnly proclaymed through that part of the World, that if any Knight durst attempt to conquer it, and by good fortune bring the adventure to an end, he should have in reward the love of his Daughter the faire Anglitora in marriage: to which many Knights resorted, as well of forraigne Countreyes, as his owne Nation; but none proved so fortunate to

as,

accompliſh the wiſhed conqueſt, but loſt their lives in the ſame aduenture: therefore I fully beleeue, if all the Knights in the world were aſſembled together, yet were they all inſufficient to ouercome that terrible Dragon.

With that the Red-roſe Knight with a bold courage ſtood vp, and proteſted by the loue he bore vnto his countries King, he would performe the enterpriſe, or loſe his life in the attempt: ſo in this reſolution hee remained all ſupper time, which being ended, the Engliſh Knights were brought into diuers chambers: but amongſt the reſt, the Red-roſe Knight and Sir Launcelot were lodged neere to the fayre Anglitora, for there was nothing betwixt their Chambers, but a little Gallery: into which being come, and no ſooner laid in their beds, but the Red-roſe Knight began to conferre with Sir Launcelot in this manner.

What thinke you (quoth he) of the enterpriſe I haue taken in hand? Is it not a deed of honour and renowme?

Surely (replyed Sir Launcelot) in my iudgement it is an enterpriſe of death: for euery man in this countrey abiudgeth you ouercome and deſtroyed, if you but once approach the ſight of the Dragon; therefore be aduiſed, and goe not to this perilous aduenture, for you can obtaine nothing thereby but reproach and death: and doubtleſſe they are counted wiſe that can ſhun the miſaduentures, & keepe themſelues from danger.

But then (quoth the Red-roſe Knight) ſhall I falſifie my promiſe; and the promiſe of a noble mind ought ſtill to be kept: therefore, ere I will infringe my Vow I haue made, I will be deuoured by the terrible Dragon; And in ſpeaking theſe words they fell aſleepe.

During which time of their conference, fayre Anglitora ſtood at their chamber doore and heard all that had paſſed betwixt them, and was ſo ſurpriſed with the loue of this gentle Red-roſe Knight, that by no meanes ſhe could reſtraine her affections: and returning to her chamber, caſting her ſelfe vpon her bed thinking to haue ſlept, but could not, ſhe began to ſay ſecretly to her ſelfe, this ſorrowfull lamentation.

Alas mine eyes, what torment is this you haue put my heart vnto? for I am not the woman that I was wont to be,

for my heart is fired with a flame of amorous desires, and is subiect to the loue of this gallant English Knight, the beautie of the world, and the glory of Christendome. But fond fools that I am, wherefore doe I desire the thing which may not be gotten, for I greatly feare that he is already betrothed to a Lady in his owne Country. And furthermore his mind is garnished with Princely cogitations, that I may not enioy his Loue: and he thinketh no more of me, then on her that he neuer saw. But grant that he did set his affection vpon me, yet were it to small purpose, for he resolued to aduenture his life in the conquest of the Golden tree, where he will soone be deuoured by the terrible Dragon. Ah, what a griefe and sorrow will it be to my heart, when I shall heare of his vntimely death, for he is the choice of all Nature, the Prince of Nobilitie, and the flower of worthip: for I haue heard him say, that he had rather die honourably in accomplishing his vow, then to returne with reproach into England. Which happy country, if these eyes of mine might but once behold, then were my soule possessed with terrestriall ioyes. Anglitora with these words fell asleepe, and so passed the night away till the day came: who no sooner with his bright beames glittered against the Palace walls, but the Red-rose Knight arose from his bed, and armed himselfe in great courage, ready for the aduenture: where after he had taken leaue of the King, and all the rest of his English friends, he departed forth of the Citie towards the Golden tree, which stood in a low vally, some two miles from the Kings Palace.

This morning was fayre and cleare, and not a cloud was seene, the elements and the Sun cast his resplendent beames vpon the earth: at which time the Ladies and Damsels mounted vpon the highest Towers in the Pallace, and the common people came vp to the battlements and walls of Churches, to behold the aduenture of this valiant Knight, who as then went most ioyfully on his iourney, till he came to the vale of the Golden tree, wherein being no sooner entred, but he beheld a most cruell and terrible Dragon come springing out of his hollow Cane. This Dragon was farre more bigger then a horse, in length full thirtie foot, the which incontinently as

soone

ſoone as hee was out of his Caue, began to raiſe his necke, ſet vp his eares, and to ſtretch himſelfe, opened his throate, and caſting forth thereat moſt monſtrous burning flames of fire: Then the Red-roſe Knight drew out his good ſword, and went towards him, whereat the Monſter opened his terrible throat, wherevnto ſprang three tongues, caſting forth flaming fire in ſuch ſort, that it had almoſt burnt him. The firſt blow that the Knight ſtrucke, hit the Dragon betweirt the two eyes ſo furiouſly that he ſtaggered: but being recouered, and feeling himſelfe moſt grieuouſly hurt, hee diſcharged from his throat ſuch abundance of thicke fuming ſmoake, that it blinded the Knight in ſuch ſort, that he ſaw no thing: but yet notwithſtanding hee lifted vp his ſword, and diſcharged it vpon the Dragon where he imagined his head was, and ſtrucke ſo furious a blow, that hee cut off his three tongues cloſe by their roots: by which the Dragon indured ſuch marueilous paine, that hee turned his body ſo ſuddenly roune, that his tayle ſmote the valiant Knight a mighty blow vpon his backe, whereby he fell downe vpon the ſands; being thus ouerthrowne, hee was in mind moſt marueilouſly aſhamed, but after a while, hauing recouered himſelfe, he ran to the Dragon againe, and with his good ſword ſmote ſuch a terrible blow vpon his tayle, that it cut it off in the middle: the which piece was ſeuen foot in length. The Dragon through the great paine that he felt, came and incountred the Knight in ſuch a faſhion, that he beat him downe to the ground, and after ſtood ouer him as though he had beene dead: but the Knight tooke his Sword, and vnderneath him thruſt it vp to the hilts ſo farre that it pierced his heart; which when the Dragon felt as ſmitten to death, began to run away with the Sword ſticking in his belly, thinking to haue hidden himſelfe in his Caue, but his life departed before he could get thither. Incontinently, when the Red-roſe Knight had reſted himſelfe, and ſaw that the Dragon was dead, he recomforted himſelfe, and went and drew out his ſword from his belly, which was all to beſtained with his blacke blood, and after tooke the Dragons three tongues and ſtucke them vpon his ſword; and likewiſe pulled a branch from the golden Tree, which hee

bare

boze in his hand: and so in triumph went towards the Citie; and being come within the sight thereof, hee lifted vp the Golden branch into the ayre as high as hee could, that might glister in the Sunne for the people to behold, (which stood vpon high Turrets, expecting his comming) who perceiuing it with great admiration began to wonder. Some there were that gathered greene Herbes and Flowers, and strewed the way whereas the Knight should passe to goe to the Kings Pallace, saying: that all Honour ought to be giuen to so noble and glorious a Conquerour.

Faire Anglitora amongst all other, was most ioyfull, when she beheld the glittering brightnesse of the Golden branch, and commanded her Waighting-maids to put on their richest attires, to solemnize the honour of that excellent Victory.

And to conclude, he was met at the Citie gate, with the melodie of Drums and Trumpets, and so conducted to the Kings Pallace: where he was right honourably entertained of Prester Iohn and his Nobles. Surely there is no man so eloquent, that can discourse by writing the great ioy that Anglitora tooke at his returne: and generally the whole Inhabitants had thereat exceeding pleasure.

But now when the valiant Red-rose Knight had entered the Hall, and had set the Golden branch vpon an Ivory Cupboard richly furnished with costly Plate, the English Knights and many other Ladies began to daunce most ioyfully, and to spend the time in delicious sports till Supper was ready, and then the King and the Red-rose Knight was set, and with them, the noble and faire Anglitora, Launcelot du Lake, and other English Knights: where (all supper while) there was no other conference holden, but of the valiant encounters of the Red-rose Knight: who for his part did nothing but make secret loue signes to faire Anglitora.

What shall I make long circumstances? The Supper passed, and the haure came that the generall company withdrew them into their Chambers, the Red-rose Knight was conducted to his Lodging by many noble men and others, which brought the Golden branch after him, and so bequeathed him for that night to his silent rest. But presently after the Noble-

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mens departure, Anglitora entred into his Chamber, bearing in her hand a siluer Bason full of sharme perfumed Waters, the which shee had prouided to wash the Dragons blood from his body: which when the Red-rose Knight perceiued, and thinking vpon the kind loue that she proffered him, put off his Clothes, and made himselfe ready to wash. Faire Anglitora being attired in a white Frocke without sleeues, turned vp her Smocke aboue her elbowes, and so with her owne hands washed the body of the Red-rose Knight.

But now when this gentle Batchelor beheld her louely Body, her faire andround Breasts, the whitenesse of her Flesh, and that he felt her hands merueilous soft, hee was so much inflamed with the ardent desire of loue, that in beholding her Beauty, he began to embrace her, and kissed her many times most courteously: and so after, when he had beene well washed, Anglitora caused him to lie in his Bed, beholding his well formed limbes, of colour faire and quicke, and could not turne her eyes from his sight: Thus as they were beholding each other without speaking any word, at last the noble Knight spake to her in this manner.

Most deare Lady, you know that by this Conquest, I haue deserued to be your Husband, and you, through kind loue, to be my Wife: whereby I may say, that you are mine, and I am yours: and of our two Bodies there is but one: Therfore I require you to seale vp the first quittance of our loues, which is, that wee two for this night, might sleepe together: and so accomplish the great pleasure that I haue so long wished for.

Ah most noble Knight (answered the faire Lady) what in mee lyeth (that may bring you the least motion of content) shall with all willingnesse be performed: But yet I coniure you by the promise of true Knight-hood, that you will saue mine Honour, lest I be made a scandall to my Fathers glory.

There is no man in the world (quoth he) that shall preserue thine Honour more then I. What if you sleepe this night with me in bed, doe you any more then your dutie, in that I am your Husband, and best beloued Friend.

My deare loue (replyed she againe) there is no pleasure which

I will deny ye: but for this night, you shall have patience; for I will never yeild up the pride of my Virginity, till my Father hath given me in Marriage: and therefore I desire you, that to morrow you will request that favour at his hands: which being granted and performed, then accomplish your content.

When the Red-rose Knight had understood his Ladies mind, he like an Honourable Gentleman, was content to obey her request. What shall I say more? but that the night drew on to the wonted time of sleepe, which caused these two Lovers (for the time) to breake off company. Here slept the Red-rose Knight till the next morning; which at the breake of day, was presented with a Consort of Musicks, which the King himselfe brought into his Chamber. Their melody so highly contented his mind, that he threw them a Gold Chaine, which was wrapped about his wrist: a gift plainely expressing the bounty that beautified his princely breast. The Musicians being departed, he arose from his rich Bed, and went into the King, whom he found as then walking in a pleasant Garden: of whom he required his Daughter Anglitora in marriage, in recompence of his adventure. The which request so displeased the King, that all his former courtesies was exchanged into sodaine sorrow, and would by no meanes consent that Anglitora should be his betrothed Spouse; and answered: that first, hee would lose his Kingdome, before shee should be the wife of a wandring knight.

The noble Red-rose Knight, when he understood the unkind answere of Prester Iohn (all abashed) went unto Sir Launcelot, and his other friends, and certified them of all things that had happened: who counselled him, that the next morning they should depart.

After this consultion, they went to the King, and thanked him for the high Honour hee had graced them with: and after that, went and visited their Ship, where for that day they passed the time in pleasure: and so when the scouling night approached, the Red-rose Knight went to the faire Anglitora, and certified her of the unkind answere of her cruell Father: whereat shee grew sorrowfull, and grieved in mind: but

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at laſt better conſidering with her ſelfe, ſhee yeelded her fortune fully at his pleaſure, promiſing, that for his love, ſhee would forſake both Countrey, Parents, and Friends, and follow him to what place ſoever hee pleaſed to conduct her. And it is to be ſuppoſed, that this night the faire Anglitora tooke all the richeſt Jewels which ſhee had, and trulſed them in a Fardle, and ſo when it was a little before day, ſhee came unto the Red-roſe Knight and awaked him: who preſently made him ready, and ſo departed ſecretly from his Chamber, till they came to their Ships: where they found all the reſt of the Engliſh Knights ready to depart: ſo when they were all aboord they hoiſted Sayls, and departed from the Port. To whoſe happy Journey, wee will now leave them for a time, and ſpeake of the diſcontents of Preſter Iohn, who all that night was exceeding ſorrowfull for the unkind anſwere, which he had given to the Red-roſe Knight, and ſo Melancholy that he could neither ſleepe nor reſt: but at the laſt hee concluded with himſelfe, that he would goe and convey the Engliſh Knights (at their departing) unto their Ships; to the end that being in other Countries, they might applaud his courteſies vſed to Strangers.

So in the morning hee aroſe and went to the Chamber where the Red-roſe Knight was lodged, whom hee found departed contrary to his expectation. After that, he went into his Daughters Chamber, where hee found nothing but relentleſſe walls, which in vaine hee might ſpeake unto: whoſe abſence drove him into ſuch a deſperate mind, that hee ſuddenly ran to the Sea coaſts, where hee found many of his Citizens, that ſhewed him the Ships wherein the Engliſh Knights were, which was at that time from the Port no Haven, more then halfe a mile. Then the King (weeping tenderly) demanded of them, if they had ſeene his Daughter Anglitora? To whom they anſwered, that they had ſeene her vpon the Ship Hatches in company of the Red-roſe Knight. At which the King bitterly lamented, beating his breſt, and tearing his milke-white Haire from his Head, vſing ſuch violence againſt himſelfe, that it greatly grieved the Beholders.

At that time there was many of his Lords preſent, who by

gentle perſwaſions, withdrew him from the ſea coaſts to his Pallace: where he many dayes after lamented the diſobedient flight of his Daughter.

Chap. VII.

How *Celia* the Queene of the *Fayrie Land* was found dead, floting vpon the waues of the Sea: with other things that happened to the Engliſh Knights.

Many dayes the windes blew cheerfully in ſuch ſort, that the Engliſh ſhips were within kenning of the Fayrie Land: at which ſir Lancelot took an occaſion to ſpeak vnto the Red-roſe Knight, and put him in remembrance how he had promiſed Celia to returne into her Countrey: vnto which he anſwered, and ſayd, That he would keep promiſe, if the Deſtinies did afford him life. And thereupon commanded the maſter Pilot to make thitherward: but the Windes not being willing raiſed ſuch a Tempeſt on the Sea, that the ſhip was caſt a contrary way, and the Mariners by no means poſſible could approach the Fayrie Land. At which time the noble Queene Celia ſtood by the ſea ſide vpon an high Rocke, beholding the Engliſh ſhip as it paſſed by, as her vſuall manner was, euery day ſtanding, expecting her deare Louers returne, many times making this bitter lamentation to her ſelfe.

Ah gentle Neptune, thou god of Seas, and Windes, where is my deſired Loue? bring him againe vnto mee, that day and night doo weepe for his company. Thus ſhe complained at the ſame inſtant when her Louers ſhip ſayled by; for ſurely ſhe knew it by the Banners and Enſignes which were diſplayed in the winde: but when the poore Lady perceiued the ſhip to turne from her, ſhe was ſore abaſhed and diſmayed. In ſtead of ioy ſhe was forced to weepe teares: and in ſtead of ſinging was conſtrayned to make ſorrowfull complaints. In this manner ſhe abode there all that enſuing night, and cauſed Fires, and great

great Lights to be made on the ſhore, thinking thereby to call the Red-roſe Knight vnto her.

This order kept ſhe euery day and night for the ſpace of ſixe weekes, wayling the want of him, whom ſhe loued more deare then her owne heart: but when the ſixe weekes were paſt, and that the Fayrie Queene perceiued that ſhee ſhould haue no tydings of her Loue, ſhe went from the Rocke (all in deſpaire) into her Chamber; where being entred, ſhee cauſed her Sonne to be brought vnto her, whom ſhe kiſſed many times, for the loue ſhe bore vnto his Father: and after beholding the little Infant, croſſing her armes with a ſigh comming from the bottome of her heart, ſhe ſayd; Alaſſe my deare Sonne, alaſſe thou canſt not ſpeake to demand tydings of thy Father, which is the braueſt Knight, the moſt vertrous, and the moſt valiant in Armes that God euer formed. Oh where is Nature (ſweete Babe) that ſhould enioyne thee to weepe, and my ſelfe more then thée, for the loſſe of ſo braue a Prince; whoſe face I neuer more ſhall ſée! Oh cruell and vnkind Fortune! my heart hath concluded that I goe and caſt my ſelfe headlong into the Sea, to the intent that if the Noble Knight bee there buryed, I may lye in the ſame Sepulcher or Tombe with him: where contrariwiſe if he bée not dead, that the ſame ſea that brought him hither alone, bring me to him being dead. And to conclude, before I commit this deſperate murder vpon my ſelfe, with my bloud I will write a Letter, which ſhall be ſowed to my Veſtments or Attire, to the intent that if euer my body bee preſented to the Red-roſe Knight, that then this bloody Letter may witneſſe the true loue that I bore him, to the houre of my death.

Many Ladies and Damoſells were in her company whilſt thus ſhe lamented her Knights abſence; who hearing of her deſperate intended death, made exceeding ſorrow. Some there were that ſo mightily grieued, that they could not ſpeake one word: other ſome there were that ſought to perſwade her from that deſperate intent, but all in vaine: for ſhe preſently went from them, and with her owne bloud writ a Letter, and wrapped it in a Beare-cloth, and then ſowed it to the Veſtures wherein ſhe was clothed: then taking her Crowne, ſhee bound

it from her head with a golde chain which the Red-rose Knight before time had giuen her. Then when she had done all this, she came to her little Sonne, and many times kissed him, and so deliuered him to the Ladies and Damsels to be nourished: & so after taking leaue of them all, she departed toward the Sea, whither being come, she went to the top of the high rocks, where she began to looke downe vpon the Sea, and after casting her eies vpon the Earth, looking vp towards Heauen, she sayd.

Thou God of my Fortunes, Lord of the winds and seas: thou that broughtest into this Country the right perfect Knight, in beauty, manhood, and all vertues, grant that when my soule hath made passage out of this world, my body may be intombed in his bosome: which words being sayd, she turned her eyes towards her Pallace, and spake with a high voyce: Adue my deare Babe, adue you glistring Towers, my royall Pallace: adue Ladies and Damsels: and lastly, adue to all the world; And in saying so, she cast her selfe into the Sea, and there desperatly drowned her selfe.

But yet such was her fortune, that the waues of the Sea boze her dead body the same day to the English Knights Ship, which as then lay in a Road where they had cast Anchor for to rest that night, and to be short, it so hapned at the same houre when her dead body was cast against the Ship, the Red-rose Knight went vp the Hatches to take the fresh ayre: where (looking about) he espied the dead Lady richly attyred in cloth of Gold, that gorgiously shone in the water, the which he presently caused to be taken vp and brought into the Ship: where looking wishly vpon her, he knew her perfectly well: and after stooping to kisse her pale Lips, hee found a bloody Letter which she had compiled, wrapt in Scarlet-cloath: so, taking it and reading the contents thereof, his blood began to change, and to ware red like the Rose, and presently againe as pale as ashes. Whereat Sir Launcelot and the other Knights were greatly abashed, but especially Anglitora, who demanded the cause of his griefe: Whereunto the Red-rose Knight was not able to answer a word, the sorrow of his heart so exceeded: yet notwithstanding he deliuered the bloody letter to Anglitora, the contents whereof are these that follow.

The

THou bright Star of *Europe*, thou Choſen of *England* for proweſſe & beauty, when wilt thou returne to fulfill thy promiſe made vnto her, that many a day hath had her eyes planted vpon the Seas after thee, ſhedding more teares in thy abſence, then the Heauens containe Starres? Ah my deare Loue, makeſt thou no reckoning nor account of thy promiſe that thou madeſt to mee at thy departure? knoweſt thou not that euery noble mind is bound to keep his word, vpon paine of reproch and ſhame? but thou haſt infringed it, and haſt broken thy oath of Knighthood: which no excuſe can recouer. For ſince I laſt ſaw thy ſhip floting on the Seas, I neuer came within my Pallace, till the Writing hereof, nor neuer lay in my Bed to take my reſt, nor neuer ſate in iudgement on my Countreyes cauſes; but for the ſpace of forty dayes I ſtood vpon a Rocke, expecting thy returne, till famine conſtrained me to depart. There haue I ſtood day and night, in raine and in ſnow, in the cold of the morning, and in the heat of the Sunne; in faſting, in prayers, in deſires, in hope; and finally, languiſhing in deſpaire and death: Where, when I could heare no newes of thy returne, I deſperatly caſt my ſelfe into the Sea, deſiring the gods that they would bring me either aliue, or dead to thy preſence, to expreſſe the true affection that I haue euer borne thy noble perſon: Thus fare thou well. From her that liued and dyed with an vnſpotted minde

Thine owne true Loue, till we meet in the Elyſian fields: thy vnhappy Cælia,
Queene of the Fairie Land.

Thus

THus when faire Anglitora had read thoſe bloody lines, ſhe greatly lamented her unhappy death: and withall,requeſted the Red-roſe Knight, in that ſhe dyed for his ſake, to beare her Body into England, and there moſt honourably intombe it: to which he moſt willingly conſented. So cauſing her body to be imbalmed, they hoyſted ſayle, and departed towards England; into which Country, they within foure months ſafely arriued. At whoſe comming the Inhabitants and dwellers greatly reioyced, but chiefly the Red-roſe Knight and his company, who at their firſt arriuall, knéeled downe upon the earth, and gaue God thanks for preſeruing them from ſo many dangers and perils, to their high renowne, and triumphant victories.

After this, they intombed the body of Cælia moſt honourably as beſitted a Princeſſe of her calling. This being done, they departed toward Pendragon Caſtle, ſtanding in Wales, where as then King Arthur kept his royall Court: where being arriued, they found the King, and many other Nobles in a readines to giue them a Princely welcome: amongſt whom was fayre Angellica the Nun of Lincolne, mother to the Red-roſe Knight; yet kept in ſo ſecret a manner, that neither he, nor ſhe, had any ſuſpition thereof, but ſpake one to another as mere ſtrangers: The diſcouery of whom is diſcuſſed at large in the ſecond part of this Victorie: as likewiſe the ſtrange fortune of Cælias little ſonne, which the Ladies in the Fayrie Land called by the name of the Fayrie Knight; and by what meanes he came to be called the Worlds Triumph: with many other ſtrange accidents, &c. But now (to concludo this firſt part) the Red-roſe Knight and the faire Anglitora were ſolemnely married together, and liued long time in King Arthurs Court in great ioy, tranquilitie, and peace.

FINIS.

R. I.

The Second Part

of the Famous Hiſtorie

Of

TOM A LINCOLNE,

THE RED-ROSE KNIGHT.

Wherein is declared his vnfortunate Death, his Ladies Diſloyaltie, his Childrens Honours, and laſtly his Death moſt ſtrangely reuenged.

Written by the firſt Author.

LONDON
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1635.

To the Reader.

PRomiſe is debt (gentle Reader) I haue therfore performed what in my firſt Part I promiſed; which was to ſhew thee the vnfortunate death of the *Red-roſe Knight*, his beloued Lady *Anglitora's* diſloyall affection towards him, his Childrens Honours, Renownes, and Dignities: and in the period of this Hiſtorie his death both iuſtly, truly, and ſtrangely reuenged: The Reading of which (if with good conſideration) I doubt not but ſhall bring vnto thee much pleaſure and delight, being (for the quantity thereof nothing inferiour to the beſt that hath beene written of the like Subiect (I meane) of Knights adventures, and Ladies beloued. I therefore dedicate this to thy reaſon, knowing that this old Prouerbe may confirme my expectation, which is, That good Wine needs no Buſh: nor a pleaſing Hiſtory craues no ſhelter. Farewell.

R. T.

The Second Part of the famous History of *Tom a Lincolne*, the Red-rose Knight, &c.

Chap. I.

How *Tom a Lincolne* knew not his Mother till forty yeares of his age, nor whose Son he was: Of King *Arthurs* death, and his dying speeches, and what hapned thereupon.

When Arthur, that renowned King of England (being one of the Nine Worthies of the World,) had by timely several set Battailes, conquered the third part of the Earth, and being wearyed with the cyclopes of Martiall Aduentures, in his old dayes betake himselfe to a quiet course of life, turning his Warlike habiliments, to diuine Bookes of celestiall meditations; that as the one had made him famous in this World, so might the other make him blessed in the World to come. Seuen yeares continued quiet thoughts in his breast: seuen yeares neuer heard hee the sound of delightfull Drummes; nor in seuen yeares beheld he his thrice worthy Knights of the Round Table, flourishing in his Court: by which meanes his Pallace grew disfurnished of those Martiall troopes that drew commendations from all forraigne Kingdomes. In this time most of those renowne Champions had yielded their lines to the conquering Tyranny of pale death, and in the bowells of the earth lay sleeping their eternall sleepes, the royall

King himselfe laden with the honour of many yeares; and hauing now (according to nature) the burthen of death lying heauie vpon his shoulders: and the Stroke lifted vp to diuide his body from his soule, hee called before him all the chiefest of his Court: but especially his owne Quéene, the Red-rose Knight, and his Lady Anglitora, with the faire Angellica, the Nunne of Lincolne, whom hee had so many yeares secretly loued: and being at the point to bid a woefull farewell to the world, with countenance as Poeticall as King Priam of Troy, he spake as followeth.

First, to thée my loued Quéene, must I vttet the secrets of my very soule, and what wanton escapes I haue made from my nuptiall Bed, otherwise cannot this my labouring life, depart from my fading body in quiet: Long haue I liued in the delightfull Sinne of Adultery, and polluted our Mariage Bed with that vile pleasure: pardon I beseech thée, and with that forgiuenesse (which I hope will proceed from thy gentle heart) wash away this long hed euill, the Celestiall powers haue granted me remission. Then turning to Angellica the Nunne of Lincolne, he said.

Oh thou my youths delight: thou whose loue hath bereaued my Quéene of such Mariage pleasure: thou, and but onely thou, haue I offended withall: therefore diuine Angellica, forgiue me: I like a rauisher spotted thy Virginity, I crept thy sweet body of Chastity: I with flattery won thy heart, and led thee from thy Fathers house (that good Earle of Lordon) to feede my wanton desires: by thée had I a Sonne, of whom both thou and I, take glory of; for in his worthinesse remaine the true Image of a Martialist; and this renowned Knight of the Red-rose is he: thee liues: the fruit of our wanton pleasures, borne at Lincolne, and there by a Shepheard brought vp, few knowing (till now) his true Parents. Parmuile not deare Sonne: thinke not amisse sweet Queene: nor thou my louely Angellica: We not dismayed you honourable States, here attending my dying houre: for as I hope presently to enter into Elizium Paradise, and weare the Crowne of desertfull Glory, I haue reuealed the long secrets of my heart, and truely brought to light those things that the darke-

darkneſſe of oblivion hath couered. Now the Mother knowes her Son, the Son the Mother. Now may this valiant Knight boaſt of his Pedegree, & a quiet content ſatisfie all your doubts. Thus haue I ſpoke my mind, and thus quieted, my ſoule bids the world farwell. Adue faire Queene, adue deare ſon, farwell louely Angellica; Lords and Ladies adue vnto you all: you haue ſeene my life, ſo now behold my death: as Kings doe liue, ſo Kings muſt die. Theſe were the laſt of King Arthurs words: And being dead, his death not halfe ſo amazed the Rangers by, as the ſtrange ſpeeches at his liues farewell.

The Queene in a raging iealouſie fretted at her Marriage wrongs, proteſted in her heart, to be reuenged vpon the Nun of Lincolne.

The Nun of Lincolne ſeing her wantonneſſe diſcouered, tooke more griefe thereat, then ioy in the finding of her long loſt Son; ſuppoſing now, that (the King being gone) ſhe ſhould be made a ſcandall to the world.

The Red-roſe Knight, knowing himſelfe to be begot in wantonneſſe, and borne a Baſtard, tooke ſmall ioy in the knowledge of his Mother.

Anglitora (Tom a Lincolnes Wife) exceeded all the reſt in ſorrow, bitterly ſobbing to her ſelfe, and in heart making great lamentation, in that ſhe had forſaken Father, Mother, Friends, Acquaintance, and Country all for the loue of a Baſtard, bred in the wombe of a ſhameleſſe Strumpet: therfore ſhe purpoſed to giue him the ſlip; and with her owne Sonne (a young gallant Knight, named the Blacke Knight, in courage like his Father) to trauell towards the Kingdome of Preſter Iohn, where the firſt breathed life, and her Father reigned.

In this melancholy humour ſpent they many dayes, troubling their braines with diuers imaginations. The Court, which before rung with Delights, and flouriſhed in gallant ſort, now thundred with Complaints; euery one diſliking his owne eſtate: Diſcontent as a proud Commander gouerned ouer them, and their Attendants were idle Fancies, and diſquiet Thoughts: and to ſpeake truth, ſuch a confuſed Court was ſeldome ſeene in the Land; for no ſooner was King Arthurs Funerall ſolemnized, but the whole troupes

of Lords, Knights and Gentlemen, Ladies, and others, were like to a ſplitted Ship torne by (the Tempeſt of the Sea) ſeuered, euery one departed whither his Fancie beſt pleaſed.

The Red-roſe Knight conducted his Mother Angellica to a Cloyſter in Lincolne, which place ſhe had ſo often polluted with her ſhame, there to ſpend the remnant of her life in repentance; and with her true Lamentations, to waſh away her blacke ſpots of ſinne, that ſo grieuouſly ſtaineth her ſoule: who from a pure Virgin, made her ſelfe a deſolute Strumpet.

Likewiſe, King Arthurs widdowed Queene, like to irefull Hecuba, or the enuious Iuno, kept her Chamber ſo many dayes, pondering in her minde what reuenge ſhee might take vpon Angellica her Husbands late fauorite.

On the other ſide Anglitora Lady and Wife to the Red-roſe Knight, with her Sonne the Blacke Knight, made proviſion for their departure towards the Land of Preſter Iohn, where ſhee was borne: ſo vpon a night when neither Moone nor Star-light appeared, they ſecretly departed the Court, onely attended on by a Negar or Black-more; a Slaue fitting to prouide them neceſſaries, and to carry their Apparell and Jewels after them; whereof they had abundant ſtore: The Blacke Knight her Sonne, (ſo called rather by fierce courage, then his blacke complection) was all fiered with the ardent deſire that hee had to ſee his Graund-ſire Preſter Iohn: therefore without taking leaue of his Father (being then abſent in the company of his lewd Graund-mother) with noble ſpirit conducted his Mother to the Sea ſide, where a Ship was ready then to hoiſt Sayle, where of the Pilots they were moſt willingly receiued for Paſſengers. And in this manner departed they the Land, the Blacke Knight wore on his Helmet for a Scutchon, a blacke Rauen feeding on dead mens fleſh; his Capariſons were all of velvet embroidered, which moſt liuely figured forth the Blacke ſtarre lodged in his Princely boſome. Anglitora his Mother, had the attire of an Amazon, made all of the beſt Arabian ſilke, coloured like the changeable hue of the Raine-bow: about her necke hung a Jewell of a wonderfull value, which was a Diamond cut in the faſhion of a Heart ſplit aſunder with a Turkiſh

kiſh Semiter: betokening a doubt that ſhe had of her Knights loyaltie. The ſlauiſh Moore that attended them, went all naked, except a ſhadow of greene Taffata which couered his priuie parts: vpon his foot a Gorriſche Shoe, which is nothing but a ſoale made of an Aſſes hide, buckled with ſmall Leathers to his inſteps, vpon his head hee woze a Wreath of Cypres gilded with pure gold, and a Plate of Braſſe about his necke cloſe locked, with the word Bond-ſlaue ingrauen about it. In this manner paſſed they the Seas, and was by theſe ſtrange habits wondred at in all Countries where they came: In which trauels we will leaue them for a time, and ſpeake of other things pertinent to our Story.

Chap. II.

Of *Tom a Lincolnes* ſtrange manner of trauelling, his wofull departure from *England*, and of his ſorrowfull lamentations for the vnkindneſſe of his Lady.

When Tom a Lincolne (the Red-roſe Knight) had ſpent ſome two months in the Company of his Mother at Lincolne, giuing her as much comfort as a Sonne might, hee left her very penitent for her euils amiſſe, and returned to the Court, where hee left both his Wife and her Son, the Blacke Knight, thinking at his arriuall, to find ſo ioyfull a welcome, and ſo conditions an entertainment, that all the blacke clouds of Diſcontent might be blowne ouer by their happy meeting: but as ill chance had alloted, all things fell out contrary to all expectation; for he neither found Wife, Child, Seruant, nor any one to make him anſwer: his Plate and Treaſure was deminiſhed, his houſe-hold Furniture, imbeſelled, and by Themes violently carried away, he had not ſo much as one Steed left in his Stable, for them the Queene had ſeazed on for her vſe: and furthermore (by her commandment) a Decree was made, that whom

whomsoeuer in all the Land shewed him any duty or gaue him but homely reuerence, should lose their heads, for shee had intituled him, The base borne seed of lust, a Strumpets brat, and the common shame of the dead King. This was the malice of King Arthurs widow: and surely Queene Iuno neuer thirsted more for the confusion of Hercules, then shee did for Tom a Lincolnes ouerthrow: But yet this griefe (being cast from a Princes fauour, to a vulgar disgrace) was but a pleasure, to the sorrow hee tooke for the misse of his Lady and Sonne: No newes could hee heare from them, but that they were fled from the fury of the angry Queene: which was but a vaine imagination layd vpon the enuious time: but farre otherwise did mischiefe set in her foot, the doting minde of his Lady Angiliora intended to a further reach; which was to abandon his presence for euer, and to thinke him as ominous to her sight, as the killing Cockatrice. The effect of this his Mines suddain dislike, shee had caused (before her departure) to be carued in stone ouer the Chimney of his lodging, how that She deserved damnation to leaue Father, Friends, and Countrey, for the disloyall loue of a Bastard.

Of all griefs to him this was the very spring, the roote, the depth, the height: which when he had read, he fell into a sound, and had it not been for two Pages that attended him hee had neuer recouered: in this agony the vaines of his breast spring out into blood. and all the parts of his body swate with griefe: downe fell hee then vpon his knees, and immediatly pulled the Ring from his finger which shee had giuen him when they were first betrothed, and washt it with his teares, kissing it a hundred times: all that euer he had from her did he wash in the blood that trickled from his bosome, and after bound them in a Cypresse to his left side, directly where his heart lay, protesting by that God that created him, and was the guide of all his passed fortunes, neuer to take them thence, till either he found his Lady, or ended his life. He likewise made a solemne vow to heauen, neuer to cut his Haire, neuer to come in Bed, neuer to weare shoe, neuer to taste Food, but onely Bread and Water, nor neuer to take pleasure in humanitie, till he had eased his griefe in the

presence

preſence of his deareſt Anglitora, and that her love were reconciled to him.

Being thus ſtrangely reſolved, he diſcharged his Servants and Pages, giving them all the wealth that he had, and clad himſelfe in tann'd ſhéepſkins, made cloſe vnto his body, whereby hee ſeemed rather a naked Wilde man bred in the Wildernesſe, then a ſenſible creature brought vp by ciuill converſation. Thus bare-ſcoted, and bare-legged, with an Iuory ſtaffe in his hand, hee ſet forward to ſeeke his vnkind Wife, and vnnaturall Sonne, giuing this woefull farewell to his native Countrey.

Oh you celeſtiall Powers (quoth hee) wherefore am I puniſhed for my Parents offences? Why is their ſecret ſinnes made my publike miſery? What haue I miſdone, that my Wife refuſeth me, and like a diſcourteous Lady forſakes me, making her abſence my preſent calamity?

Oh thou gracious Queene of Loue, I haue beene as loyall a ſeruant in thy pleaſures, as euer was Hero to her Leander, or Pyramus to his Thisbe: Then what madding fury, like a cruell commander, hath taken poſſeſſion of my Anglitora's heart, and placed infernall conditions, whereas the pure vertues of modeſt behauiour had wont to bee harboured? It cannot bee otherwiſe, but the enraged Queene with her vnquenchable Enuie hath driuen her hence; and not onely of one heart made two, but of two ſtrikes to make note; which is, by vntimely death, to worke both our confuſions: therefore proud Queene, farewell: let all the Furies haunt thee, and may thy Court ſeeme as hatefull to thy ſight, as the tormints of Hell-fire to a guilty Conſcience. Vngratefull England likewiſe adieu to thee, for all the honours I haue brought into thy bounds, and with the ſpoyles of forraigne Countreyes made thee the onely Prince of Kingdomes: yet thou repayeſt mee with diſgrace; and load'ſt me with more contempt, then my neuer conquered Heart can indure: ſo kiſſing the ground with his warme lips, that had ſo long foſtered him, and with many a bitter teare and deepe ſob, like a Pilgrime (as I ſayd before) he tooke leaue of his native Countrey, and ſo went to the ſea ſide: where he heard of his

wife and his sonnes departure, after whom (as soone as the wind conueniently serued, he tooke ship-bord: Where we will now likewise leaue him to his fortune vpon the Sea, and speak of the professed malice the Queene prosecuted against Angelica the mother of the Red-rose Knight.

Chap. VII.

Of the wofull death of *Angelica*, Mother to the *Red-rose Knight*, and of the death of the iealous Queene and others.

THe beautious Angellica being left by her Sonne, the Red-rose Knight, (at his departure) in a Monasterie at Lincolne, there to bewaile her former offences; and for her youths pleasure, in age to tast the bitter fwo of sorrow: the day-time shee spent in grieued passions, the night she wasted with sighs and heart-breaking sobs: she fed on carefull thoughts, her drinke was streames of salt teares: her companions, thoughts of her passed wanton pleasures: her bed no better then the cold earth: her sleeps were few, but her comforts lesse: her continuall exercise was with a needle to worke in silke, vpon the hangings of her Chamber, how she was first wooed, then wonne to King Arthurs pleasures, in what manner their meetings were, their wanton dalliances, his imbraces, her smiles: his princely gifts, her courteous acceptance: and lastly, the birth of her thrice worthy Sonne, his bringing vp, his honours in the Court, and his strange discouery: all which shee had wrought, as an Arras worke, with silke of diuerse colours, in a piece of the purest Holland cloath. In doing this, twice had the golden Sunne runne his circumference about the world, twice had the pleasant Spring beautified the Earth with her changeable mantles, twice had nipping Winter made the Fields barren, and the woods leafelesse, and twice had the yeare shewed himselfe to all mankinde: in which time of

twice

twice twelue months, euery day made this a ſorrowfull complaint for the wracke of Honour, and her Virginities loſſe, which ſo willingly ſhe ſurrendred: and in this, ſo greatly had ſorrow and griefe changed her, that her eyes (which had wont like twinckling Diamonds to giue light to all affections) were now ſunke into their Cels, and ſeemed like a hollow ſepulcher new opened: her Face, wherein Beautie her ſelfe dwelt, and her cheeks the true die of the Lillie and the Roſe intermixt, now appeared old and withered, like to the countenance of Hecuba when her Husband King Priamus, and her Princely Children were ſlaine at Troyes deſtruction: and her treſſes of Gold-like Hayre, which like to Indian Myers hung ouer her ſhoulders, were now growne more white then Thiſtle downe, the Icicles of frozen Ice, or the white mountaine Snow: all theſe griefes of nature had not age changed, but the inward griefe of her carefull heart.

But now marke the woefull chance that happned, euen vpon the day, which by computation ſhe had in former times yielded vp her Maydens pride, and loſt that Jewell that Kingdomes cannot recouer: vpon that hapleſſe day, came there a Meſſenger from the Queene, to bid her make preparation for death; for on that day ſhould be her liues end, and her fortunes period: which ſhe moſt willingly accepted of, and tooke more ioy thereat, then to be inuited to a Princely Banquet.

Be not diſmaid (ſaid the Meſſenger) for you ſhall haue as honourable a death as euer had Lady: ſeuen ſeuerall Inſtruments of death ſhall be preſented to you for a choiſe, and your owne tongue ſhall giue ſentence which of them you will die by: whereupon this Meſſenger ſet this ſorrowfull Lady at a round Table, directly in the middle of a very large roome, (whereinto he had led her, hung all about with blacke: where being placed as to a Banquet, or ſome ſolemne Dinner of ſtate, there entred ſeuen Seruitours in diſguiſed ſhapes like bare Shatterers, with ſeuen ſeuerall deadly ſeruices in Diſhes of ſiluer plate: The firſt brought in fire burning in a Diſh, if ſhe would, to conſume her body to aſhes: The ſecond brought in with a twiſted Coard, to ſtrangle her to death: The third, a Diſh full of deadly poyſon, to burſt her body withall: The

fourth, a sharpe edg'd Rayzor or Knife, to cut her throat: The fifth, an Iron wracke to teare her body into small pieces: The sixth, a Dish full of live Snakes to sting her to death: And the seuenth an impoysoned Garment, being worne, that will consume both flesh and blood. These seuen deathfull Scrutours hauing set downe their Dishes (the least whereof brings present death) shee was commanded by the Messenger, which of them she should chose to die withall, and to make speedy choice; for he was sworne to the Queene (on whom he attended) to see it that day accomplished. At these his words she fell presently vpon her knees, and with a courageous heart to yeeld to deaths furie, then to the mercie of the liuing Queene, sayd as followeth.

Oh thou guider of this earthly Globe, thou that gauest my weake nature ouer vnto a wanton life, and from a Virgin chaste, hast made me an infamous Strumpet: thou that sufferedst onely a King in Maiestie to preuaile against me, and with the power of greatnesse won me to lewdnesse; for which I am now doomed to a present death, and forced by violence to bid this tempted world adue; Inspire me with that happy choice of death, as my soule may haue an easie passage from my body. First, to die by Fire, to an earthly imagination seemes terrible, and far different from nature: Secondly, to die with strangling cord, were base, and more fitting for robbers, theeues, and malefactors: Thirdly, to die by deadly poyson, were a death for beasts and wormes that feed vpon the bosome of the earth: Fourthly, to die by cutting knines and slicing razors, were a death for cattle, fowles, and fishes that die for the vse of man: Fiftly by an Iron wracke to end my life, were a barbarous death and against mans nature: But secondly to try a lingring death, which is a life consuming by wearing of impoysoned garments, (where repentance may still be in company) will I chuse: therefore swet Messenger of my death, doe thy office, attyre me in these robes: and the manner of my death I beseech thee make knowne vnto the Queene: tell her (I pray thee) I forgiue her; and may my death be a quiet vnto her soule, for my life is to her eares as the fatall sound of night Rauens, or the Mermaids tunes.

Maine

Vaine world, now muſt I leaue thy flattering inticements, and inſtead of thy pompe and glory, muſt ſhortly tread the doleſull march of pale death: and this body that hath béene ſo pleaſing to a Princes eye, muſt bée ſurrendred vp for wormes to feed vpon. Many other words would ſhe haue ſpoken, but that the commanding Meſſenger (being tyed to an houre) cauſed her to put on the impoyſoned Robes, which no ſooner came to the warmth of her body, but the good Lady after a few bitter ſighes, and dreadfull gaſpes yeelded vp the Ghoſt; being (through the extremitie of the infectious Garment) made like to an Anatomie, which they wrapped in Neare-cloath, and the next day gaue her buriall according to her eſtate, and ſo returned to the inraged Queene, keeping then her Court at Pendragon Caſtle in Wales, into whoſe preſence the Meſſenger was no ſooner come, but the angry Queene beyond all meaſure being deſirous to heare of Lady Angelica's death, in a rage ran and claſped him about the middle, ſaying.

Speake Meſſenger ſpeake, ſo the vile Strumpet dead? Is the ſhame of woman-kind tortured? Is my hearts griefe by her death baniſhed my boſome: ſpeake for I am ouermaſtred with doubts.

O gracious Queene (quoth the Meſſenger) reſolue your ſelfe of her death; for the cold earth hath incloſed vp her body: but ſo patiently tooke ſhee her death, that well might it haue moued a Tigers heart to remorſe; for in truth my heart relented at the manner of her death; Neuer went Lambe more gently to the ſlaughter, nor neuer Turtle-done was more meeke, then this woefull Lady was at the meſſage of her death: for the Elements did ſeeme to mourne cloſing their bright beauties vp in blacke and ſable Curtaines; and the very ſtuffe walls (as it were) ſweate at the Agonie of her death. ſo gentle, meeke and humbly tooke ſhe her death, commending her ſelfe vnto your Maieſtie, wiſhing that her death might bee your ſoules contentment.

And could ſhe be ſo patient (quoth the Queene) that euen in death would with happineſſe to the cauſers thereof: farewell then miracle of woman-kind, I haue beene to thee a ſa-

vnto Lionnette: I was blinded at the report of thy wantonnesse, else hadst thou beene now aliue: all my cruelties against thee, I now deerely repent, and for thy deare hearts blood by me so rashly spilt, shall bee satisfied with the liues of many soules. Hereupon, shee in a furie commanded the Messengers head to be stricken off and the seuen Seruitors to bee hanged all at the Court Gate, and afterward caused their limbs to be set vpon high Poales by the common high wayes side, as an example of her indignation.

Neuer after this houre (such is the remorse of a guiltie conscience) could shee sleepe in quiet, but strange visions of this Lady (as shee thought) seemed to appeare to her: the least noise that shee heard whispering in the silence of the night, did shee imagine to bee some Furie to dragge her to Hell, for the death of this good Lady: the Windes (as shee imagined) murmured with Reuenge, the running Riuers hummed with Reuenge, the flying Fowles of the Ayre whistled out Reuenge: yea every thing that made noyse (in her conceit) gaue remorse for Reuenge: and till that her owne life had giuen satisfaction by death for the ruine of so sweet a Ladies life, no food could doe her good, no sleepe quiet her braine, no pleasure content her minde, but Despaire with a terrible countenance, did euermore attend her, willing her sometime to throw her selfe headlong from the top of a Tower, sometime by poyson to end her dayes, sometime by drowning, sometime by hanging, sometime by one thing, sometime by another: but at last in the middle of the night, hauing her heart deerely ouer-maistred by dispaire, shee tooke a Girdle of pure Arabian Silke, which Girdle she first wore on her Princely Nuptiall day when King Arthur married her: this fatall Girdle shee made a sliding knot of, and therewithall vpon her Bed post she hanged her selfe. Thus blood (you see) being guiltilie shed, is quitted againe with blood.

The Queene being dead, was not so much pitied of the people, as the good Lady Angelica, little lamentation was made for her death; for euery one expected the like vntimely ende: but according to the allegeance of Subiects her Noblemen gaue her a Princely Funerall, and set ouer her an

Iron

Iron tombe, in ſignification that thee had an Iron heart, and Flinty conditions.

Here will wee leane the dead to their quiet reſts, and returne to the Black Knight and his Mother Anglitora, with the Indian ſlaue that attends them: for ſtrange be the accidents that happen to them in forraigne Countreyes: and after wee will ſpeak what happes to the Red-roſe Knight vpon the ſea.

Chap. IV.

By what meanes *Anglitora* became a Curtizan, and how her Sonne the *Blacke Knight* loſt himſelfe in a Wilderneſſe.

THe Blacke Knight, his Mother Anglitora, and the Blackamoore ſlaue, hauing happily croſt the Seas, and arriued in a Countrey very fertill to ſee to, replenished with all kinds of Trees and Fruit, yet were there no Inhabitants to find, but onely an old Caſtle built of Flint ſtones, the Turrets whereof were made like the Grecian Pyramides, ſquare and very high: At this Caſtle gate they knocked ſo boldly (each one careleſſe of all accidents that might happen) as it rung into the Chamber where the Knight of the Caſtle lay: who immediately ſent a very low ſtatur'd Dwarfe to ſee who knocked, and if they were ſtrangers to direct them vp into his Chamber, to take ſuch kind courteſies as the Caſtle afforded: for indeed hee was a Knight of a bountifull condition, and full of liberality. The Dwarfe no ſooner comming to the Gate, and eſpying people in ſuch ſtrange diſguiſed attires, neuer hauing ſeene the like before, without ſpeaking one word, ranne amazedly vp to his Maſter, certifying him that a kinde of people of an vnknowne nation was arriued, and that they ſeemed rather Angells (in ſhape) then any earthly creatures.

The Knight of the Caſtle hearing this, came downe and met them in a large ſquare Court paued with marble ſtone, wher-

where hee kindly gaue them entertainment, promising them both lodging and other needfull things they were destitute of.

The three Trauellers accepted of his courtesies, and being long before weather-beaten on the Seas, thought themselues from a deepe dungeon of calamities lifted to the top of all pleasures and prosperitie; thus from this paued Court the Knight led them vp to his owne Chamber, wherein was a fire made of Iuniper wood and Frankincense, which smelled very sweet: the walls were hung about with rich Tapestrie, whereon was writ the story of Troyes destruction, the Creation of mankind, and the fearfull discription of the latter day of Doome: likewise hung vpon the same walls Instruments of all sorts of musicke, with such varietie of other pleasures, as they had neuer seene the like.

Now while these weary Trauellers take pleasure in beholding these things, the good Knight caused his Dwarfe (which was all the seruants that he kept) to couer the Table, made of Cypresse wood, with a fine Damaske table-cloth, and thereon set such delicates as his castle afforded, which was a piece of a wild Boze, roasted the same morning, with diuers other seruices of Fowles, whereof the Country had plentie: Their bread was made of the Almonds mixed with Goats milke (for no corne grew in this soyle) their Drinke of the wild grape, likewise mingled with Goats milke, which is in my mind accounted restorative: to this Banquet were the Trauellers placed, where hauing good stomacks, they quickly satisfied hunger, and after began to chat of their aduentures what dangers they indured by sea, and how luckily they arriued in that country, giuing the courteous Knight great thanks for his kindnesse.

On the other side, when the Banquet was ended, euery one rising from the table, he tooke an Orphirian that hung by, and caused his Dwarfe to dance after the sound thereof: the strings whereof he himselfe strained with such curiositie, that it moued much delight, especially the Lady Anglitora, whose eyes and eares were as attentiue to the Melody, as Hellens were to the inchanting Pipicks of the Grecian Paris. In this kind of pleasure consumed they most part of the day, till the

The bright Sun began greatly to decline, then the Blacke Knight in a courageous spirit, said.

Sir Knight (for so you seeme to be by your entertainment of strangers) this Carpet kind of pleasure I like not, it disagrees with my young desires: the hunting of untamed Tygers, the Tilts and Turniaments of Knights, and the Battels of renowned Warriours, is the glory I delight in: and now considering no other aduentrous exercise, may be found in this Country, but onely the hunting of wild beasts, I will into the Forrest and by manhood fetch some wild Venison for my mothers supper.

The Knight of the Castle (seeing his resolution) furnished him with a hunting Iauelin, and so directed him to the Forrest, where most plentie of such pleasures were: God be his good speed, for we will leave the Blacke Knight in his exercise, and speake of the wanton affections of Anglitora, and the Knight of the Castle that they cast vpon each other: a short tale to make, whereas two hearts make one thought, the bargaine is soone made: the Knight of the Castle hauing not had the presence nor societie of a Woman in seauen yeares before, grew as wantonly minded as the Roman Tarquinius, when he rauished the chaste Lady Lucretia. On the other side, Anglitora hauing the venome of disloyaltie, grew so pliable to his desires, that at his pleasure he obtained that loue which in former times the Red-rose Knight aduentured his life for; she that in former times was accounted the worlds admiration for constancie, was now the very wonder of Fame, and the by-word of modest Matrons: this was the first dates entrance into their wanton pleasures, which in all dalliance they spent till the Sun had lost the sight of the earth: then expecting the returne of the Blacke Knight from hunting, they sate as demurely as they had beene the chastest liuers of the world; not a glance of wantonnesse passed betwixt them, but all modest and ciuill behauiours; in this sort stayed they attending for the returne of the Blacke Knight. But all in vaine: for hauing a wild Panther in chase, he followed so far in the vnknowne Forrest that he lost himselfe, all that night trauelling to find the way forth, but could not; for-

was to him as meate to a ſicke man; his ſteps were numberleſſe, like the ſtarres of heauen, or the ſands of the Sea: his ſences for recourſe little preuailed, the further he went, the further he was from returning: thus day and night (for many dayes and nights) ſpent hee in theſe comfortleſſe trauailes; no hope cheered his heart, no comfort bore him company, but his patient mind: and now at laſt, when he ſaw all meanes fruſtrate, he reſolued to liue and die in that ſolitary Foreſt: his food hee made of the Fruits of trees, his drinke of the cleare running water, his bed was no better then a heape of Sun-burnd Moſſe, his Canopies the azure Elements full of twinckling lights, his Curtaines a row of thicke branched Trees, the Torches to light him to his bed, the Starres of Heauen, the Moone or Phebe to bring him aſleepe, the cranes of Rauens, or the fearefull cries of night Owles: the Clocke to tell the houres of the night, were hiſſing Snakes, and Toads croaking in foggy graſſe: his morning Cocke the cheerefull Nightingale, or the cherping Larke: his companions on the day, were howling Wolues, rauening Lions, and the wrathfull Boares: all (as the Fates had decreed) as gentle to him in fellowſhip, as people of a ciuill gouernment: for to ſay truth, time and neceſſity had conuerted him to a man of wild conditions: for his haire was growne long and ſhaggy, like vnto a Satyre; his fleſh tanned in the Sunne as an Indian; the nailes of his fingers were as the talents of Eagles; wherewith hee could eaſily climbe the higheſt Trees: garments hee had not any, for they were worne out, and as willingly was he content with nakednes, as in former times hee was with rich habiliments.

Thus liued hee for ſeuen yeares in this deſolate Foreſt, by which time hee was almoſt growne out of the fauour of a man: where for a time we will leaue him, and proceed to other accidents: alſo we will ouer-paſſe the lewd liues of Angiſcora and the Knight of the Caſtle, nor ſpeake as yet any more of their ſeuen yeares aduultery: for numberleſſe were the ſinnes committed by them in thoſe ſeuen yeares, in that accurſed Caſtle.

CHAP.

Chap. V.

How the *Red-rose Knight* found his Lady, and how he was most strangely murthered, and buryed in a dung-hill.

The Blackamore slaue (as you haue heard) attended vpon them like an obedient Seruant, and shewed all duty and loue, till Anglitora gaue her body to the spoile of lust, and from a vertuous Lady conuerted her selfe to a hated Strumpet; which vile course of life when the Indian perceiued, hee secretly departed the Castle, greatly lamenting the wrongs of his Master, the Red-rose Knight, whose noble minde deserued better at her hands. Day and night trauailed the poore slaue toward England, thinking to finde his Master there, and to reueale that which hee thought hardly would be beliefed by him: weary and opprest with hunger went hee this long Journey: many Prouinces hee passed therow, before hee could learne the way towards England; and then was hee so farre from it as at the first, when hee departed from the Castle.

The labouring Husbandman grieued not more to see his Corne and Cattell taken by Theeues, nor the Merchant to heare of his Shippes sunke at Sea, then did this Indian at his vaine trauailes, and wearisome Journeyes to small purpose: so at last setting forward againe, he came to the Sea side, thinking to heare of some Ship to giue him passage ouer: but alasse, one crosse falls after another, one mischiefe comes vpon the necke of another: and one mischance seldome happens alone; so as this true-hearted Negar stood beholding how the billowes of the Sea beat against her bankes, and the Whale fishes lay wallowing in the Waues, behold such a tempest suddainely arose, that by the force thereof the poore slaue was cast into the Sea; but by reason of his Silken vaile tyed about his middle, and his great skill in swimming (as most Negars bee perfect therein) kept himselfe from

drowning: and as good fortune would, the same tempest drone the weather-beaten ship to the same shore wherein the Red-rose Knight (his Master) was, which ship had borne seuen yeares vpon the Sea in great extremitie, and before this tyde could neuer see land. By that time the Tempest ended, the Ship floated to land, wherein was left but onely the Red-rose Knight in his Palmers weed (for all the rest were starued vp for want of food) who being weake and feeble, climbed vp to the top of the Hatches, where when hee had perceiued the Negar labouring for life vpon the waters, cast out a long coard, and so saued him: whom when the Red-rose Knight saw, and perfectly knew, hee fell almost into a trance for ioy, supposing his Lady and Sonne not to be farre distant: but recouering his former senses, he spake as followeth.

Oh blessed Neptune, hast thou vouchsafed to deliuer me from the depth of thy bowels and cast me on land, where once againe I may behold my faire Anglitora, and my deare Sonne, the Blacke Knight. These seuen yeares famine indured on the Sea, hath borne a sweet pleasure to me, in that the end brings me to my desires. Full threescore of my miserable Companions in this Ship, hath death seazed vpon, and through Famine haue eaten ons another, making their hungry bowels graues for the other Carkasses; and though now this belly of mine (like the Canibals) haue beene gritted with humane flesh, and this mouth of mine tasted the blood of man: yet am I as pitifull as the tender hearted Mother, forgetting her Sons offences: and to my Anglitora will be as kind, as if neuer she had trespassed: nor like the Grecian Helena, left her married Lord: So taking the Blackamore by the hand. He demanded of her welfare, and in what estate his Son remained? The true hearted Negar could hardly speake for griefe, or vtter one word for teares: yet at the last with a wofull sigh hee vttered forth these heart-killing speeches.

Oh my noble Master (quoth hee) by you from a Pagan I was made a Christian: by you, from a Heathen nation without ciuilitie, I was brought to a Land of Princely gouernment

uerament; and by you, till my departure, was I maintained in good maner: therefore if I ſhould proue a periured ſlaue, and a falſe Mariet towards you, my body were worthy to bee made foode for hungry Fowles of the Ayre, and for the rauening Beaſts of the Fields: therefore now conſidering that dutie bindes mee to it, I will reueale ſuch wofull chaunces, and ſuch diſloyall trickes ſhewed by your Lady as will make your heart tremble, your ſinewes ſhake, and your haire to ſtand vpright. Anglitora your Lady and Wife, hath diſhonoured your Bed and polluted that ſacred Chamber of ſecrecie, which none ought to know, but onely you two: That mariage vow ſhee made in Gods holy Temple, hath ſhee infringed, and vnlyed the knot of Nuptiall promiſe: in a Countrey farre from hence hath ſhee wrought this hated crime, in a Countrey vnpeopled lines ſhee in a Caſtle, which is kept by a Knight of a wanton demeanour; there lins they two in adultery, there lins they ſecretly ſleeping in wantonneſſe: and therefore theſe ſeauen yeares hath ſhee made her ſelfe the childe of ſhame: All this with extreame griefe doe I vnfold, and with a heart almoſt kild with ſorrow doe I breath out the dutie of a ſeruant: if I haue offended, let my death make amends: for what I ſpeake is truely deliuered from a heart vnſained.

All this time of this his ſorrowfull Diſcourſe, ſtood the Red-roſe Knight in a bitter agonie, like one newlie dropt from the cloudes, not knowing how to take theſe diſcourteſies: one while purpoſing to bee reuenged, and with his nailes to teare out the Strumpets eyes: another while, bewayling her weake nature, that ſo eaſily was won to lewdneſſe: but at laſt, taking to him (the vertue) patience, hee reſolued to trauell to the Caſtle, and with his meeke perſwaſions ſeeke to win her from her wickednes, and to forget, forgiue, and caſt out of remembrance all theſe her vnwoman-like demeanours, obſerning the Prouerbe, That faire meanes ſooner winnes a woman, then foule. Thus in company of his true ſeruant the Negar, hee tooke his iourney toward the Caſtle; where (after foure moneths trauell) they arriued, the Red-roſe Knight, by the directions of the Negar, knocked, and in his Pilgrimes habite, deſired meate and lodging for himſelfe and his guide.

The firſt that opened the Gate, was his owne Lady, who immediately, vpon the ſight of them bluſhed, as though ſome ſudden feare had affrighted her; yet diſſemblingly (coloring her knowledge of them) ſhee in a charitable manner gaue them entertainment, and conducted them to a by roome at the backe ſide of the Caſtle: into which place ſhe ſent them (by her Dwarfe) victuals from her owne Table, with a command, that the next morning they ſhould auoyd, and neuer more trouble this place.

This meſſage ſent by the Dwarfe, much diſquieted the Red-roſe Knight, and drowe ſuch amaze into his mind, that hee grew ignorant what to doe: And ſeeing his appointed time very ſhort to remaine there, he now thought fit to ſtrike whilſt the Iron was hot, and to diſcouer what hee was: ſo taking the Scarfe of Jewels and Rings tyed to his left ſide againſt his heart (which ſhe knew perfectly well to be the gifts of her Loue) and by the Dwarfe ſent them her: The which no ſooner ſhe beheld, but ſhe openly ſaid to the Knight of the Caſtle, that their ſecret affections were diſcouered, and her husband in the habit of a Palmer made abode in her houſe, conducted thither by the Moore, to bring their ſhame to light, and to carry her thence to England, there to be puniſhed for her ſinnes. Hereupon the Knight and ſhee purpoſed the ſame night to rid themſelues of that feare, and by ſome violent death ſend the Palmer to his laſt abiding. Diſquietneſſe attended on all ſides for that day, and euery houre ſeemed ten, till night approached; which at laſt came, though long looked for. Then Anglitora in company of the Knight of the Caſtle, like vnto Murtherers roſe from their beds, euen at that houre of night when miſchiefes are acted, when no noyſe was heard but the barking of Wolues, the howling of Dogs, and the creeking of Night-owles, all affiance to blacke actions: In this manner came they into the Lodging of the Palmer, who for wearineſſe of his Iourney, moſt ſoundly ſlept, little dreaming that ſuch cruelty, could be lodged in the boſome of his wedded wife: one whoſe loue he had firſt gained with great danger, and alwaies eſteemed as deare as his owne heart bloud. All ſignes of duty had

had ſhe obſcured, not any remembrance had ſhe of Womanhood: Marriage Loue was forgotten, their paſſed ioyes were as things neuer beene: not any thought of remorſe remained within her; but the more cruell then the new deliuered Beare, or the Tyger ſtarued for meat, by the helpe of the Knight of the Caſtle, tooke the Scarfe of Iewells (ſent her from him the ſame euening) and by violence thruſt them downe the Palmers throat: by which meanes they bereaued him of life, and without any ſolemnitie due to ſo braue a man, they buried him in a Dunghill without the Gate, not ſhedding ſo much as one teare for his death: ſo great was the enuie of this his ſpitefull Lady. The poore Negar they ſet vp to the middle in the ground ſo ſurely faſtned, that by any meanes he could not ſtir from thence, where wee will leaue him wiſhing for death. The Red-roſe Knight, or rather the vnhappy Palmer, in his vnchriſtian like Graue, and the Knight of the Caſtle with the multitude of Anglitora, to their ſurfetting Banquets of Loue, and returne to the Blacke Knight, which had loſt himſelfe in the Woods.

Chap. VI.

How the *Blacke Knight* being loſt in a wilderneſſe became a wild man, how his Fathers Ghoſt appeared vnto him, and in what maner he ſlew his owne Mother.

By this time the Blacke Knight grew ſo natturall a Wild-man, as though he had beene bred in the wilderneſſe: for day by day hee ſported with Lions, Leopards, Tygers, Elephants, Vnicornes, and ſuch like kind of beaſts, playing as familliarly with them, as in King Arthurs Court he vſed deare with gallant Gentlemen. But marke how it happened one day aboue another: hee chanced to walke downe into a Valley, where hee ſate himſelfe downe by the Riuers ſide, and in humane complaints bewailed his ſtraite ſtate, how being borne and bred of a

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Princely Race, descended royally, should thus consume his dayes in sauage sort, amongst Wilde beasts, and by no meanes could recouer his libertie, or free himselfe from that solitary Wildernesse. Being in this distresse of mind, a suddaine feare assayld him, his heart shimered, his haire stood vpright, the Elyments seemed to looke dimme, a terrible Tempest tore vp huge trées, the Wilde Beasts roared and gathered on a heape together, Birdes fell liuelesse from the ayre, the Ground as it were trembled, and a sodaine alteration troubled each thing about him: in this amaze sate hée a good time, marualling what should ensue: at last there appeared (as hée imagined) the Ghost of his Father newly murthered, with a countenance pale and wan, with hollow eyes (or none at all) gliding vp and downe before him: casting such fearefull frownes, as might make the stoutest heart in the world to tremble: and at last, setting himselfe before the Blacke Knight, spake as followeth.

Feare not my Sonne, I am the Ghost of thy murthered Father, returned from Plutoes hollow Region; I came from that burning Kingdome where continually flames an euerlasting Furnace: from the fearefull Pitte come I to thee for reuenge: Oh thou my Sonne: if euer gentle Nature were pleant in thy bosome: if euer thou tookest pleasure to heare thy Fathers honours spoken of, if euer thou desirest to haue thy life meritorius in this world, take to thee thy neuer-failing Courage, and reuenge my death vpon thy adulterous Mother: thy Mother now liuing in the filthinesse of shame, making the Castle where thee now remaines in, a lustfull Stewes: there was I murthered, and there buried in a stincking Dunghill: no man gaue mee Funerall teares, nor any sorrowed for my death: I that haue dared Death in the face, and purchast honour in many Kingdomes, was slaine by my owne Wife, by my neerest Friend, by my second selfe, by Anglitora, by her whom the whole world admired for vertue. Rise (deare Sonne) rise, and hast thee to that Castle polluted with the shame of thy wicked Mother: Rise I say, and let the Parements of that Castle, be sprinkeled with their detested blood, the blood of that Monster that

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hath not onely dispoyled my marriage bedds of honoured dignities, but like a tyrant to her owne flesh hath murthered me. See how the angry Heauens (as it were) doe threaten my Reuenge: hearke how Hell-Furies doe howle and roare for Reuenge: my Wiues Adulterio at the hand of Heauen deserues Reuenge: My bleeding soule (Oh my Sonne) wandreth in vnquiet paths, till thou workest Reuenge: my death and murther cries (as did the blood of Abell) for Reuenge: thou feare not (Sonne) to act it; for duty, loue and nature bindes thee to it. By Heauen, and by that great immortall Throane of happinesse: By that low Kingdoms of eternall paines; By the huge watrey Seas I past to follow her; By Earth and by the Soules of all the mortall men that euer dyed, I command, charge, and constraine thee to persuere in this Reuenge: Hence to that soule defamed Castle, defamed by Adulterie, defamed by Murther; there to my Soule doe thy latest duty; there wound thy cursed Mothers brest, there sacrifice her lifes blood, there appease thy Fathers Ghost incenst with furie; so shall my Soule in my enter the fields of faire Elyzium: But if thou preuest coward-like, and through feare deny to execute my glorious Reuenge, from this day hence-forth shall my pale wan, leane, and withered Ghost with ghastly lookes, and fearfull steps, pursue and follow thee. These were the words of his Fathers Ghost: and hauing spoken these words, with a grieuous groane, he vanished. At this his suddaine departure the Blacke Knight cryed with a loud and fearfull voyce, saying.

My noble Father, stay; Oh stay thy hasty steppes: once more let me heare thee speake. Whither flyest thou? Oh let me heare thy voyce againe: It will not be, He is vanished; and my Mother liues as a shame to all our generation. Oh thou staine of womanshéed; Oh thou bloody Dionnesse; Oh brytish act: Oh beastly desires: Where shall I now finde a place to shed teares in? for my heart is rent into terrs thousand pieces, and the terrour of this deed, is too intollerable. Rest thou in peace, swéete Father: thou in thy life wert both wise and valiant: thy vertue, wisedome, and man-

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how made the very enemies to loue thée: Oh then, what fortune hadſt thou, to die by the friendly truſt of thy owne Wife, my diſloyall Mother, thy neereſt friend proou'd thy greateſt enemie; and by a Womans malice, that heart was killed, that millions of Foes could neuer daunt. Oh ſweete Red-roſe Knight, moſt happy hadſt thou beene to haue dyed in the Fields of bloody Warre, and ſeal'd thy liues quittance amongſt renowned Soldiers: then had thy death beene more honorable, my wicked Mother had not murthered thee, nor I beene inforſt to take ſuch bloody vengeance, as I intend (deare Father) for thy ſake: for let me neuer breath one day longer, nor view the next Mornings riſing Sunne: let me neuer line impriſoned in this Wildernelſe, let nothing proſper that euer I take in hand, and here let the troubled end, if I ceaſe to proſecute a mortall Reuenge, as the ſoule of my Father hath commanded. Hereupon he ſet forward toward the Caſtle, conducted by what chaunce the Heauens had allotted him: not one ſteppe he knew aright, nor what courſe to take to finde the direct way: but it hapned, that an ignis fatuus (as he thought) or a going Fire, led him the right way out of the Foreſt directly to the Caſtle where his diſhoneſt Mother made her abode. But comming neere vnto the Gates, he found all cloſe, and neere vnto the Caſtle the Blackamore ſet halfe way quicke into the earth, hauing (for want of foode) eaten moſt part of the fleſh from his armes: whom the Blacke Knight ſoone digged vp, and kept aliue, to be a furtherance to his intended reuenge.

The poore Indian, being thus happily preſerued from death, reuealed all that had hapned in the ſaid Caſtle; how his Mother liued in adultery, how his Father was murthered, why himſelfe was ſet quicke in the earth, and laſtly, for the loue of his dead Maiſter, he proteſted to conduct him through a ſecret Vault into the Caſtle, that in the dead of the night they might the better accompliſh their deſired reuenge: Thus lingering ſecretly about the Caſtle till the middle of night: a (time as they imagined) to bee the fittеſt for their tragicall buſineſſe: at laſt the midnight houre came, and through a ſecret Cell they entred vnder the Caſtle into

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the Lodging where his Father was murthered. This is the place (quoth the Negar) where my sad eyes beheld thy Father both aliue and dead; so going from thence into the Chamber (which by chaunce, and as ill lucke had appointed) was through negligence left open, hee shewed him the Bedde where these Adulterers lay secretly sleeping in each others Armes, Oh dolefull sight, This lust, hath made mee fatherlesse, and ere long this Weapon shall make me motherlesse: so kneeling downe vpon his knees, in a whispering manner hee said vnto himselfe. Yee lowring Destinies, now weaue vp the Webbe of their two liues that haue liued too long. You infernall Furies, draw neere: Assist me thou reuengefull God Nemesis, for on this Sword sits now such a glorious Reuenge, as being taken, the world will applaude mee for a louing Sonne. Hauing spoken these wordes, hee sheathed his Sword vp to the hiltes in the bosome of the Knight of the Castle, who lying in the armes of Anglitora, gaue so deadly a groane, that she immediately awaked: first looking to the Knight that was slaine in her Armes, then perceiuing her Sonne standing with his weapon drawne; yet wreaking in the blood of the dead Knight, menacing likewise her death, with a woefull shrike she breathed out these words,

Oh what hast thou done my cruell Sonne? Thou hast slaine the miracle of humanitie; and one whom I haue chosen to be my hearts Paramour, and thy second Father.

Oh Lady quoth the (Blacke Knight) for Mother is too proud a title for thee: what Furie driueth thee to lament the deserued death of that lewde blood shedder, and not rather chose with heart-renting sighes, to bewaile the death of my Father, thy renowned Husband, whose guiltlesse body, euen dead, thou didst despise, by buring him inhumanly vpon a dunghill: but heauen hath graunted, and Earth hath agreed, detesting both thy misdeedes, and hath sent mee to sacrifice thy blood vnto the Soule of my murthered Father. Whilst hee was speaking these words Anglitora arose from her bed, and in her smock (which was of pure Cambricke) shee kneeled to her sonne vpon her bare knees, saying.

Oh thou my deare Sonne, whom once I nourisht in

my painefull wombe, and fed thee with mine owne blood, whom oft I choicely dandled in my armes, when with lullabies and sweet kisses I rocked thee asleepe: O farre be it from thee (my loving Sonne) to harme that breast, from whom thou fiest receiuedst life: Of thee (my Sonne) thy Mother begging life. Oh spare the life, that once gaue thee life, with bleeding teares, I doe confesse my wanton offences, I doe confesse through mee thy Father dyed: Then, if confession of faults may merit mercie, pardon my life. Obscure not thy renowne with cruelty, making thy selfe vnkind and monstrous in murthering of thy Mother. I charge thee by thy dutie that thou owest mee; by all the bondes of loue betwixt a Mother and a Sonne; by all the kindnesse shewed to thee in thy infancie, let thy mother liue that begs life vpon her bare knees: Doe not thou glory in my miseries: let not my teares whet on thy crueltie: let not thy minde bee bent to death and murther: be no sauage Monster: bee not vnnaturall, rude and brutish: let my intreaties preuaile to saue my life: wound not the wombe that fostred thee, which now I teamed wicked, by onely fostring thee; what child can glut his eyes with gazing on his Parents wounds, and will not faint in beholding them?

Hereupon the Blacke Knight not able to indure to [illegible] his Mothers further intreaties, lest pitie and remorse might mollifie his heart, and so grant her life (which to Heauen to take away hee had deepely sworne) hee cut her off with these deadly words.

Lady, I am not made of Flint nor Adamant; in kinde regard of calamitie, I am almost strucke with remorse: but dutie must quite vndoe all dutie: Kind must worke against kinde, all the powers of my body bee at mortall strife, and seeme to confound each other. Loue turnes to Hatred: Nature turnes to wrath, and Dutie to Reuenge: for mee thinkes my Fathers Blood with a groaning voyce, cryes to Heauen for Reuenge: therefore to appease my Fathers angry spirit, here shalt thou yeeld vp thy dearest blood. Here was hee ready to strike, and with his sword to finish vp the tragedie: but that his grieued soule in kinde nature plucked backe his hand:

hand: whereupon with a great sigh he said.

Oh Heauens how am I grieued in mind. Father forgiue me, I cannot kill my Mother. And now againe, me thinks I see the pale shadow of my Fathers Ghost gliding before mine eyes: me thinks hee shewes me the manner of his murther; mee thinkes his angry lookes threatens mee and tels how that my heart is possest with cowardise, and childish feare: Thou dost preuaile. O Father euen now receiue this sacrifice of blood and death; this pleasing sacrifice which to appease thy troubled soule, I heare doe offer. And thus in speaking these words, with his sword hee split the deare heart of his mother; from whence the blood as from a gushing Spring issued. Which when hee beheld, such a sudden conceit of griefe entred his mind, considering that hee had slaine his owne Mother, whom in duty hee ought to honour aboue all liuing women, that he rather fell into a frenzie then a melancholly; and so with a pale countenance and gastly lookes, with eyes sparkling like to a burning Furnace, began to talke idlely.

What haue I done? Whom hath my bloody hand murthered? Now woe vnto my soule for I am worse then the Vipercus brood that eates out their Dammes wombe to get life vnto themselues: they doe but according to nature, I against all nature; for I haue digged vp the bosome that first gaue me life. Oh wicked wretch; where shall I now hide my head for I haue slaine my selfe, in killing her: I haue staind this Chamber here with humane blood. The Heauens abhorre me for this deed: The world condemnes me for this murther, and Hell furies will follow mee with shame and terrour: The Gods are grieued. Men (me thinks) flie my company: dead Ghosts arise in my distresses: I see my Mother comes with a brest bleeding, threatning confusion to my fortunes. Oh thou vgly Spirit, cease to follow mee, torment mee not aliue, for the wrath of Heauen is fallen vpon my head. Dispaire, where art thou? I must find thee out I will go seek thee through the world: and if in the world I find thee not, Ile saddle winged Pegasus, and scale the mantion place of Iouc.) I will ransake all the corners of

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the skie, I will throw downe the Sunne, the Moone, and Starres: then leauing heauen, I will goe seeke for Dispaire in the loathsome poole of Hell; there in Plutoes Court will I binde blacke Cerberus vp in chaines, the triple-headed Helhound, that Porter of hell gates, because he let Dispaire passe from thence. In this frantike sort ran he vp and downe the Chamber, and at last with the nayles of his fingers hee fell to grane vpon the stone walls the picture of his Mother, imitating Pigmalion, hoping to haue life breathed into the same. Heane while the poore Indian with fleshlesse armes heaued vp towards Heauen, and on his bare knees, made his supplication to the Gods, for the Blacke knights recouery of his wits.

Oh you angry Heauens (quoth hee) remoue your heauy dames, forget this crime, forgiue this vnnaturall murther: pity the state of this distressed Knight, and send some meanes to recouer his senses. Thou bright Lampe of Heauen, thou eternall light, although in Iustice we haue deserued thy wrath, yet let my prayers, my neuer ceasing Prayers, my hearts renting sighes, my deepe inforced Teares, worke some remorse from thy incensed ire, that either his Knight may recouer his lost senses, or set him free from death. Thus in a zealous manner prayed the poore Negar, desiring God to lay the Knights fault vpon his head, and reclaime his vnbridled rage: which Prayer was soone regarded by Heauen, for the Blacke Knight had immediatly his madnesse turned into a sad melancholly; and in a more gentle maner made his sad lamentations, as you shall heare in the next Chapter.

But now the Negar, that all the time of Anglitoras murther stood in a trance, began now a little (considering the fright he tooke at the Blacke Knights madnesse) to summon againe together his naturall senses, and perceiuing the vnchaste Lady dead, cold, pale, wan, lying weltring in her gaare and the blood of her false heart (shed by her owne child) all besprinckled about the Chamber, sayd as followeth.

Now (quoth the Negar, betwixt life and death) haue you shewne your selfe a vtifull Sonne, and nobly reuenged the death of your Father. These were the last words of the poore

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Indian; which as then ſunke downe, and neuer after breathed: Thereupon came forth the Dwarfe of the Caſtle, with great ſtore of treaſure, proffering the ſame to the Blacke Knight; who nothing thirſting after couetouſneſſe, refuſed it, and withall tooke the Dwarfe in ſatisfaction for the Negars death, and crammed the treaſure downe his throat; and after buried the two Seruants together in one Graue. This being done he digged vp his Fathers body from the Dunghill, and brought it to the chamber where his mother lay, and after in an Abby yard belonging to the Caſtle, he buried them both likewiſe in one Graue. This being done, hee kneeled thereupon, and made his complaint in this manner.

Chap. VII.

Of the *Blacke Knights* melancholly lamentations ouer the graue of his Parents; and of other things that hapned.

O thrice happy for euermore be this ground that containes the bodies of my vnfortunate Parents: for this Earth hath receiued the ſweet Darling of Nature, and the only delight of the whole world; the Sun-ſhine of Chriſtendome, and the glory of Mankind: Oh thrice happy be the graſſe, that from henceforth ſhall grow vpon this Graue: let neuer filthy touch it, nor crafty lurking Serpent with venemous breath, or deadly poyſon, hurt it: Let no Lyons pawes, nor Beares foot, tread vpon it: Let no beaſts horns in any manner abuſe it: Let no Birds with pecking, no craping filthy Vermine, no winters nipping Froſt, no nightly falling Dewes, no rage of the parching Sunnes heat, nor Starres haue power from Heauen, nor fearfull Tempeſt nor horrible Lightning in any manner annoy it: Let no Plough-man driue hither his weary Oxen, nor Shepherds bring hither their Sheepe, leſt by the Bulls rage it be harmed, or by the harmleſſe Sheepe it be eaten: but let it for euer grow, that the diſplaying thereof may reach to Heauen: and may from henceforth

this

this Graue be euer accounted sacred: and may the Grasse be euer sprinkled with sweet Waters. Some good man vpon this Graue set a burning Taper, that then for euery anguish of my heart, I may beat my brests, till my Fistes haue strucken the winde from my body; and that my soule may beare them company into Elizium. Come you wanton fleshly Satyres: Come you friendly Fawnes: Come you Feyries and Dryades, and sing sweet Epitaphes; lift vp your voyces to Heauen, and let your prayses be in the honour of my Parents: my selfe like a wan, pale, and dead man, will beare you company: I will wearie the world with my complaints: I will make huge Streames with my teares: such Streames, as no banke shall barre: such Streames, as no Drought shall dry. But alas what doe I meane to repeat these seuerall lamentations: since my deare Parents be dead: since from the world they are parted: since they are buried without solemnitie: since my delights are all inclosed in the Ground: yet will I still here make my complaints, though no good ease comes thereby, adding teares to teares, and sorrowes to sorrowes. Oh frowning Fortune. Oh vnlucky Starres. Oh cursed day that euer I did this deed, for now no sense, nor knowledge, takes their vnsensible bodies of my griefes: in this Graue there is no feeling: in Death there is no pitie taken. Oh thou Siluanus thou commander of these Mountaines, helpe mee pure helplesse soule to shed teares: for my religion, for my deuotion and Countries sake helpe me: either let me haue some comfort in my sorrowes, or let me in Death beare my Parents company. Thou seest what torments I suffer; how my heart trembles, how my eyes flow with teares, how my head is with teares possest, how my soule is full of horrible anguish: all this thou seest, and yet it little grieues thee to see it. Oh thou fruitfull ground, from henceforth cease any more to beare Fruit: cease to be deckt with Flowers, cease to be mantled in Greene, for the purest Flowers are withered: Thy Gariands are decayed: my deare Parents are too vntimely bereft of life: their sweet bodies thou harbourest, and in thy woombe delinerest them as food vnto

wormes

Wormes. Therefore thou cruell Earth, howle and mourne, for thou art vnworthy of such blessed bodies. And now, oh you pittifull Heauens, heare my complaints, conuey them to the Soules of my deceased Parents: for my lamentatinds by the gentle Windes, are blowen from the East vnto the West: the dry Land, and the Watry Seas, are witnesses to them: Therefore no day shall rise, but it shall heare my complaints: no night shall come, but it shall giue eare vnto my moanes: neither day nor night, shall be free from my heart-breaking cryes. If that I groane, mee thinkes the Trees are bended, as though they pittied my teares. The very Ground (for griefe) I see altars her complexion. All that I heare, all that I see, all that I feele, giues fresh increase to my sorrow. I will neuer henceforth come in peopled Towne, nor inhabited Cittie, but wander all alone vp and downe by low Valleyes, and steeppy Rockes: or I will dwell in darke Dennes frequented onely by Wilde Beastes, where no path of man was euer seene, or to the Woods I will goe, so darke, and beset so thicke with shaddow branches, that no Sunne may shine there by day, nor no Starre by night may be seene, whereas is heard no voyce, but the outcryes of horrible Goblings, the balefull shrikes of Nightowles, the vnluckie sounds of Rauens and Crowes; there shall mine eyes bee made watry Fountaines; there will I make such plaints, as Beasts shall mourne to heare them: such plaintes will I make, as shall rend and riue strong trees, make wilde Panthers tame, and mollifie hard flinty stones: And if by chance that sleepe oppresse mee, on the bare and cold Ground shall these woefull limbs rest: the greene turffe shall, serue as a Pillow for my head: boughes and branches of trees shall couer me: and then I hope, some venemous Serpent will speedily giue mee my deaths wound, that this my poore soule may be released from flesh and blood: by which meanes I may passe to those Fields, those faire Elizium Fields, whereas my murthered Parents daily resort. In this manner complained the Blacke Knight vpon his Parents graue, three dayes and nights together, still kneeling vpon the cold ground and could not by any imagination bee comforted: euery thing

his eyes beheld, renewed freſh ſorrow and drew on new lamentations: but at laſt, the Powers of Heauen intending to graunt him ſome eaſe, caſt his diſtreſſed ſenſes into a quiet ſlumber: where lying vpon his fathers graue, we will let him for a time reſt.

Chap. VIII.

How the Fayerie Knight came to be called the *Worlas Triumph*, Of his arriuall in England, of the two Knights deaths, and of the Prouerbs vſed of three Cities in England.

You haue read in the firſt part of this Hiſtorie, how the Fayerie Knight, the Sonne of Celia, begot by the Red-roſe Knight, was committed (by his Mother at her death) to the keeping of the Ladies of the Land: for then was there but few Men liuing, being a Countrey onely of Women: and now being of luſty age: and a Knight of renowned valour, he betooke himſelfe to trauell: the onely cauſe to finde his Father, or ſome of his kindred whom he had neuer ſeene.

Many were the Countries he paſſed: but more the dangers hee indured: all which for this time, wee omit: onely a little ſpeake of three guifts giuen him by an Hermite, that had three exceeding Vertues: For comming to an Iland to ſeeke aduentures, it was his chance to ſaue a young beautifull Mayden from ranſhing by a ſatyricall Wild-man: for he hauing tyed the golden locks of her Hayre to two knotty brambles, and being ready to take his venerall pleaſure vpon her, the Fayerie Knight comming by, and ſeeing that diſhonour and violence offred to ſo young a Virgin, with his Sword at one blow, paired away the Wild-mans head, and ſo went with the Mayden home to her Fathers houſe, which was an Hermitage ſome mile diſtant off: where being no ſooner come, but the good old man, hauing a Head more white then ſiluer, but a heart more heauier then Lead, by reaſon of the

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want of his daughter, ſo cruelly taken from him began at her ſight to be ſo cheared, that he had not the power (for joy) to ſpeake in a good ſpace, but at laſt, taking the Fayerie Knight by the hand, he led him to an inward roome, where he banqueted him with ſuch cheere as his Hermitage affoorded; and after in lieu of his daughters reſcheu, he gaue him three ſuch Gifts, and of three ſuch Vertues, as the like ſeldome had Knight. The firſt was a Ring, which whoſoeuer did weare, ſhould neuer dye by treaſon. The ſecond a Sword; that on what Gate ſoeuer it ſtrucke, it would preſently fly open. The third and laſt, a viall of ſuch Drinke that whoſeuer taſted thereof, ſhould ſodainely forget all paſſed ſorrowes.

Hauing receiued theſe three Gifts of the good old Hermite, he departed, and trauelled without any aduenture till he came and found the Blacke Knight aſlepe vpon his fathers Graue: which when the Fayerie Knight had awaked, in countenaunce they were ſo alike, as Nature had made them both one, (for indeed they were Brothers by the Fathers ſide, the one true borne, the other a Baſtard) yet at the firſt ſight, ſuch a ſecret affection grew betwixt them, that they plighted their faythes each to each other, vowing neuer to part friendſhips. But when the Blacke Knight had reuealed his birth and parentage, his Fathers name, and place of birth, the Fayerie Knight reſolued himſelfe, that he had found a Brother, as well in nature as condition: But when he heard the ſtory of his Fathers life, and the manner of his death, with the murther of Angli-tora his vnchaſt wife, he could not chuſe but ſhed teares, whereof plenty deſcended from his faire eyes: whereupon her broke occaſion to ſpeake as followeth.

Heauen reſt thy ſweet ſoule (my vnknowne Father,) and may the fruite of thee proue as famous in the World as thou haſt been; but more fortunate in their Mariage choyſe: As for my Stepmother, though her vnchaſt life haue made her infamous to all Womankinde, yet this in charitie I deſire, that when ſhee comes to Plutoes Realme, that Proſerpine may ſend her to the bleſſed fields of Elizium; in remembrance of whom, in this world, (if euer we arriue in that noble Countrey of England where my Knightly Father was

borne) wee will there erect her a stately Tombe: yet no Epitaph shall shew her disloyall life, nor the cause of her death: onely in Letters of beaten Gold, shall remaine ingrauen vpon her Tombe, the name of, Anglitora Daughter to Prester Iohn, and Wife to the worthy Red-rose Knight. Hereupon hee gaue his new-found Brother (the Blacke Knight) his Viall of Drinke which the Hermite had giuen him: who no sooner had tasted, but all former greefes were forgotten: he remembred not the death of his Father, nor the murther of his Mother, nor what sorrow hee had sustayned in the Wildernesse: but like a ioconde Knight, gyrt his Sword round about him, and stood on Thornes till hee was set forward to seeke Martiall aduentures. Hereupon these two Knights departed toward England, and performed many noble deeds of Chiualrie by the way; But amongst all others, being in the Turkish Court (this is worthy to bee noted) for with one Boxe of the eare, the Blacke Knight killed the Turkes Sonne starke dead: for which cause, by treason were their liues conspired, and the following night, had their Lodging entred by twelue of the Turkes Guard, with an intent to murther them: but by reason of the inchaunted Ring, in the which they put both their little fingers, the Guard of a sodaine fell all fast in a traunce: hereupon the two Knights departed the Turkish Court. But no sooner were they out of the Citie, but a troupe of armed Knights pursued them, and followed them so neerely, that they were forced to enter a Castle that stood by the Sea side, wherein no creature had abyding: comming to the Gate, the Fayerie Knight with his Sword strucke thereat, and it presently opened: wherein being no sooner entred, but the armed Knights of the Turkish nation closed them fast in, and caused the Gates to bee walled vp with Free Stone, and so departed. Now where these two Knights in more danger of death, then euer they had beene in all their liues: and sure they had starued, had not good politicie preserued their liues: for the Castle walles were so high, that none durst venture downe without great danger. As in greatest extreamity, mans wit is the quickest for inuention: so the two Knights cut off all the Hayre from

their

their heads which were very long) and therewithall made a long twisted Line or Cord, with the which they slid from to top of the wall to the ground. But this mischance happned; as the Fayrie Knight glided downe, the Coard broke, and his body tooke such a violent blow against the Stonie Ground, that it strucke the breath quite out of his body, no life by the Blacke Knight could be perceiued, but that his soule was for euer diuided. This of all misfortunes, was held the extreamest; therefore in great griefe hee breathed forth this lamentation.

Oh you partiall Fates (quoth hee) Oh you vniust Destinies: Why haue you reft two liues by wounding one? Now let the Sunne forbeare his wonted light, Let Heate and Cold, let Drought and Moysture, let Earth and Ayre, let Fire and Water, be all mingled and confounded together: let that old confused Chaos returne againe, and here let the World end. And now you Heauens this is my request, that my soule may presently forsake this flesh: I haue no soule of mine owne, for it is the soule of the Fayrie Knight, for but one Soule is common to vs both: then how can I liue, hauing my soule departed, which spightfull death hath now separated? Oh thou my Knightly brother, though the Fates deny to giue thee life, yet in spight of them Ile follow thee. You Heauens receiue this halfe soule of my true Friend and let not life and death part vs; with Eagles wings will I fly after him, and in Ioues celestiall Throne ioyne with him in friendship. We two in life were but one, one will, one heart, one mind, one soule made vs one: one life kept vs both aliue, one being dead, drawes the other vnto death: therefore, as we liued in loue, so will we dy in loue; and on one Groue we may inter both our bodies: how glorious and happy were my death, to die with my beloued friend: Now doe I loath this life in liuing alone without my deare Brother: whereupon drawing his Sword from his side, he sayd.

Oh thou we all Weapon, euen thou shalt be the meane, to ridde my soule from this prison of body. Oh faith vnfained, Oh hand of sacred friendship; I am resolued both with the force of Heart, hand, and Armes, to giue my Heart deaths

deadly wound; for now my noble Fayrie Knight, this blood I offer vp vnto thy soule. But being ready with his sword to pierce his owne heart, he saw a lively blood spread in his friends face, and those eyes that were so dolefully closed vp, began now to looke abroad; and the countenance that was so pale and wan, recouered a fresh complexion; whereupon the Blacke Knight staied from his desperate resolution, and from a bloody tragedian, became the recouerer of his brothers life; who after a while, began to be perfect sensible: so binding his bruised bones together, they went a shipboard vpon a Ship that lay at Anchor at the next Port, making for England, so the next morning (the wind serued well) the Pilots hoysted saile, merrily floting on the waters.

Ten weeks had not passed toward the finishing of a yeare before they arriued on the Thanikie cliffs of England; vpon which they had no sooner set footing, but with their warme lips they gently kissed the cold earth. This is the Land of promised glory (said the Fayrie Knight) to find this Land I haue indured many miseries: to find this Land I haue passed many Countries, and in this Land, must I seale vp the last quittance of my life, here shall my bones rest, for I am lawfully descended from the loynes of an English Knight: peace be in my end, for all my dayes haue beene spent in much trouble.

In such like discourses left they the shore, and trauailing further into the Land, they met with one of King Arthurs Knights, named Sir Launcelot du Lake, so old and lame that through his bruises in chiualry, he seemed rather an impotent creature, then a Knight at Armes; yet at the sight of these two aduentrous Knights, his blood seemed to grow young: and he that before could not march a mile on foot for a Kingdome, now went as lustily as any of the two other Knights did. First came they to London, where for their Fathers sake they were (by the Gouernours) most gallantly entertained: the streets were hung round with Arras hangings, and Tapestrie workes: Pageants were builded vp in euery street, the Conduits ran with Wine, and a solemne Holy-day was then proclaimed to be kept yearely vpon that day. To speake of Banquets prepared for them, the Tilts and Turniaments,

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Bernard Quaritch

H. Ferguson

17. VII. 1914

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